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NETWORK WITH PAGES OF JOBS

THE INDEPENDENT

Tuesday 28 April 1998 45p (IR 50p) No 3,596

Today's news

Tories face London choice

THE Tory Party may hold a mass meeting of London members at Wembley Stadium to decide who will represent it in the contest for the capital's mayor. Tories may be asked to select candidates from a shortlist drawn up by Conservative Central Office after consultation with local associations. Ken Livingstone, Labour MP for Brent East, is the London public's choice. **Page 8**

Labour lampoon

TV COMPANIES are queuing up to lampoon the Government, proving that Tony Blair's honeymoon is but a distant memory. The day after it was announced that Mary Enfield is planning a pastiche on Peter Mandelson for the BBC, ITV revealed that it has a satirical sitcom in the pipeline featuring three fictitious Labour MPs. **Page 3**

Buses for villages

ISOLATED rural communities in England are to get a £40m cash boost designed to bring back buses to village life, ministers will announce today. The Government is keen to promote public transport in rural areas. Ministers point out that 20 per cent of rural households do not have cars. **Page 6**

Paedophile visits

A GIRL of 11 was sexually abused by a paedophile who visited her in her home, police say. The girl was taken into care and the man was charged with sexual assault. The girl's mother said she was shocked and distressed. **Page 4**

Business news

£25bn share losses

MORE than £25 billion was wiped off the value of leading UK shares yesterday as the FTSE 100 tumbled by 140 points on worries that US interest rates could rise. The FTSE-100 share index closed at 5722.4, down 141.5 or 2.5 per cent. Financial stocks were among the heaviest losers, with Halifax down 44p at 787.5p and Lloyds TSB down 36p to 901p. **Page 21**

Sports news

Rugby names delay

THE England rugby coach, Clive Woodward, has been forced to delay naming his tour party for the southern hemisphere by two weeks in order to give his ailing players time to regain full fitness. Woodward, who has selected 36 players for the tour which involves test matches against South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, had 14 players either definitely non-starters or serious doubts at the last count. England's opponents have demanded that Woodward must do everything possible to ensure a full-strength team. **Sport, page 30**

ANC in drive for peace in Ireland

By Mary Bradd
and Colin Brown

SOUTH African government ministers arrive in Belfast today in an African National Congress delegation which is part of a growing campaign to underpin the peace settlement.

While there was no official confirmation of the claim by Ian Paisley that visits to Northern Ireland were also being planned for members of the Royal Family before the 22 May referendum on the Good Friday agreement, it was clear last night that an intensive drive is now underway to win a Yes vote.

Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC chief negotiator during South Africa's transformation from apartheid to majority rule, two senior ministers in President Nelson Mandela's government, and the ANC's top lawyer are due to meet prisoners in the Maze.

A Sinn Féin spokesman said that the team would "bring a lot of experience of their own peace and negotiating process". Like Northern Ireland's South Africa's problems had seemed intractable but "they achieved a breakthrough there and it looks like there might be a breakthrough here as well". The spokesman said he was not aware of decommissioning of weapons had been singled out for discussion.

Matthew Phosa, the ANC lawyer said last night: "We also had our share of having to implement difficult resolutions and agreements during the transformation of our country, which involved governance and the issue of armed wings of liberation structures." The issue of political prisoners would be discussed with "all other political parties", said Mr Phosa, a guerrilla commander during the liberation struggle.

The ANC team will also visit

Dublin and address public meetings there and in Belfast. Sinn Féin insisted that the delegation had been invited to point out the pitfalls in complex political negotiations.

The delegation's visit follows a bizarre Irish conference held in South Africa last May. Almost 30 representatives of all sides of the Irish conflict flew into the isolated De Hoop nature reserve in the Western Cape for a three-day gathering, organised by Irish-American academic Patrick O'Malley and hosted by Mr Phosa and Mr Ramaphosa.

Though the Ulster Unionists' David Trimble, the Democratic Unionist Party's Peter Robinson and Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness attended, it was not clear if they communicated across the sectarian divide.

Meanwhile, the discovery of a body in a border area of the Irish Republic yesterday brought to a total of five the number who have died in paramilitary shootings so far this month. The killings have served as a reminder that some level of violence seems set to continue in the wake of the Good Friday agreement.

In Downing Street yesterday, Gerry Adams urged the Prime Minister to withdraw army patrols from the streets of Ulster. The meeting with Mr Blair was described by Mr Adams as "constructive", although Government sources said that with the killing continuing in the province the troops would remain on patrol.

Mr Blair will visit Ulster at least twice before the referendum vote and discussions are continuing between the main parties for Mr Blair to share a platform with the Conservative leader William Hague and Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats, to promote a

Yes vote.

Inquest hears of 'shaken baby syndrome'

By Andrew Buncombe

THE six-month-old baby whose Australian nanny has been charged with harming her apparently died after being shaken, an inquest heard yesterday.

Preliminary tests showed evidence of haemorrhage in baby Caroline Jongen's brain and eyes, suggesting she had been the victim of "shaken baby syndrome".

Pathologist Dr Freddy Patel said that while further tests, taking up to six more weeks, were required before he could be certain of the cause of death, the initial findings were "highly suggestive".

Meanwhile, Louise Sullivan, the 26-year-old nanny, appeared in court yesterday and denied that she had injured the baby.

Dr Patel was giving evidence at the formal opening into the inquest

on Caroline, who died a week ago after spending four days on a life-support machine at Great Ormond Street Hospital. She was taken to hospital on the morning of 17 April from a house in north London.

Yesterday, Dr Patel said his post-mortem examination would not be complete until he had carried out chemical tests on the baby's brain, eyes and spinal cord. But he told Stephen Chan, the St

Pancras coroner: "On initial examination, there was no evidence of any marks of violence externally."

"There was evidence of haemorrhaging in the brain and eyes - a combination highly suggestive of shaken baby syndrome."

Dr Patel said he would be consulting other specialists before making his final report to ensure there was no other possible cause of death. He said that,

provisionally, he would attribute cause of death to *commotio cerebri*, an internal cranial catastrophe, adding: "I must try to find out what caused it."

The inquest was adjourned for 28 days and the baby's body was released for burial.

Miss Sullivan's bail was renewed yesterday after she pleaded not guilty to a charge of causing grievous bodily harm with intent.



Sullivan: pleaded not guilty

The ultimate sacrifice for sake of Tibet



Thupten Ngodup, a Tibetan exile, burning after he set himself on fire yesterday in Delhi. The image is taken from amateur video. Ngodup was protesting against police moves to halt hunger strikers. He had 90 per cent burns to his body, and doctors at the hospital where he was taken said his chances for survival were slim. **Protest ends in flames, page 14** Photograph AP/HO

Fine words, but no new cash as drugs crisis worsens

By Ian Burrell

THE Government announced yesterday that it would underwrite its new drugs prevention programme with no new public money, but by diverting a proportion of the £5m generated each year by confiscating the assets of drug dealers.

The money was dismissed as a "non-reliable drop in the ocean" by some drugs organisations concerned that large numbers of drug treatment centres are overstretched and facing a crisis in funding.

The long-awaited White Paper, *Tackling Drugs To Build A Better Britain*, unveiled by Ann Taylor, Leader of the House of Commons, contained no quick fixes to the drugs problem, but was designed as a "realistic" 10-year strategy.

The programme includes giving

healthy lifestyle lessons to schoolchildren as young as five, to dissuade them from later experimentation with drugs.

Ms Taylor told the Commons that encouraging progress was already being made in the war on drugs. She said: "There are some signals that levels of drugs misuse are relatively stable across England and Wales as a whole. This suggests that drug misuse is neither inevitably bound to increase nor irreversible."

Roger Howard, chief executive of the Standing Conference on Drug Abuse, was sceptical of the worth of using diverted drug dealing assets to fund treatment and education initiatives. "It might be £5m this year, but it could be nothing next year," he said.

The White Paper's pledge to in-

roducing new drug treatment and testing orders to divert offenders from prison into treatment, could cost an estimated £40m alone.

The new strategy has been overseen by Keith Hellawell, the UK's Anti-Drugs co-ordinator, who has re-evaluated Britain's £1.4bn annual spending on tackling drugs problems in order to draw up realistic targets for the future.

He said yesterday that the drugs problem was costing Britain £4bn a year. "We must now shift our emphasis from reacting to the consequences of drug misuse to tackling its root causes," he said.

The strategy's first aim is to help young people resist drugs misuse. Specific targets will be set, including reducing the number of under-25s who report having used illegal drugs in the past month and

year, and reducing the number of under-25s using heroin.

The Government also wants to increase the level of knowledge among five- to 16-year-olds of the risks of drug misuse. But Mr Hellawell added: "We are not intending to talk to children of five years of age about crack cocaine and the paraphernalia associated with it."

Other key objectives include reducing the availability of drugs to five- to 16-year-olds and reducing levels of repeat offending among drug users. The Government is also anxious to ensure that young people have access to treatment programmes which are considered appropriate to their gender and race. Research in London, showing that one in four addicts was female, will be extended nationwide.

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TOMORROW

■ Keith Cooper: from The House to the caff

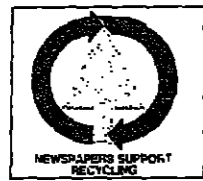
■ Shake a leg: Hardy Amies on the shape of menswear today

■ Donna McPhail: potting the pink - why I'm addicted to snooker



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Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

End troop patrols, Adams tells Blair

By Colin Brown and David McKelrick

GERRY ADAMS urged Tony Blair to withdraw Army patrols from the streets of Ulster yesterday at their first meeting since the Good Friday peace settlement.

The Prime Minister told the Sinn Féin president the agreement was the "best opportunity for decades for peace in Northern Ireland which the people of Northern Ireland want".

Meanwhile, the discovery of a body in a border area of the Irish Republic yesterday brought to a total of five the number who had died in paramilitary shootings so far this month. The killings have served as a reminder that some level of violence seems set to continue in the wake of the Good Friday agreement.

Speaking after the Downing Street meeting, Mr Adams complained that he had had to go through two security roadblocks in Belfast and that the nationalists were being harassed

on the streets by troops and the Royal Ulster Constabulary. He also called for the RUC to be disbanded, which was firmly rejected later by Downing Street officials, although they pointed out that a review of policing in the Province was part of the agreement.

The hour-long meeting with Mr Blair and a further 20 minutes with Mo Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, was described by Mr Adams as "constructive" although government sources said that with the killing continuing in the Province, the troops would remain on patrol.

Privately, Mr Adams was concerned by the size of the "no" vote in the referendum on 22 May, and Sinn Féin regarded recent alleged leaks by Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, as a concerted attempt to destabilise the peace settlement.

Government sources later shrugged off claims by Mr Paisley that three members of the Royal Family will be visiting Ul-



Surveillance: Sinn Féin councillor Gerry Kelly with a bugging device found at his home at the weekend. Brian Harris

ster before the referendum. "We are not organising it, but we would not say anything in advance for security reasons," said one Whitehall source.

Mr Blair will go to Northern Ireland twice before the referendum, and Tory sources confirmed last night that the plans were still progressing for a joint campaign platform with

William Hague, the Tory leader, and Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader.

Mr Adams refused to make any commitment but he appeared hopeful that his party conference on 10 May will endorse his leadership to go for a "yes" campaign. In spite of the issues raised yesterday with Mr Blair covering demilitari-

sation, and the development of the Irish language in Ulster.

The latest Ulster killing came to light when a member of the public spotted a body, wrapped in plastic sheeting, 200 yards away from the border near the Co Lough village of Droam.

Although there was no admission of IRA responsibility

for the killing, the circumstances were in some ways similar to those of IRA killings of alleged informers in the past.

In another development, Sinn Féin produced video footage of what it claimed was an ingenious bugging device said to have been found in the home of a relative of Gerry Kelly, one of its senior negotiators.

Troops cleared in gun club case

AN SAS corporal and another elite soldier who admitted unwittingly arranging illegal "anti-terrorist" courses for members of the fashionable Mayfair gun club because of Army confusion about the law, were shown mercy yesterday.

Southwark Crown Court judge Peter Fingert told the "gallant" pair - known only as X and Y for "national security reasons" - that he was giving them an absolute discharge even though they had pleaded guilty to allowing members of the public use an array of powerful weaponry.

He hoped this would go some way towards "redressing" the suffering of former SAS man X, who was forced to leave the Army through no real fault of his own, and Y, a decorated one-time member of the Parachute Regiment's Pathfinder Platoon, who has since been transferred to another unit.

"The two of them had appeared here following misunderstanding by and confusion within the Army and Ministry of Defence as to the facilities available to the public, that confusion now having been remedied by an Act of Parliament," said the judge.

The court earlier heard the Army's ignorance of the law had allowed Manchester United footballers and England and Wales rugby players to fire "prohibited" weapons at the SAS's base at Hereford.

The judge said that while X and Y each admitted two "strict liability" offences under the Firearms Act of "possessing and transferring" assault rifles to members of the public on two occasions at Aldershot base in 1996, he was satisfied "no moral culpability attaches to either of them".

Downing Street talks on union rights at work reach deadlock

By Barrie Clements

CRITICAL talks between the Prime Minister and union leaders over future of labour relations in Britain yesterday reached deadlock.

As a result of the impasse, the TUC scrapped a conference scheduled for 6 May which was due to discuss the contents of the *Fairness at Work* White Paper.

The Lord Chancellor has

warned employees representatives that if there is no Government document by the end of the May, there is unlikely to be legislation giving new workers' rights in the next Parliamentary session. The Government's promise of new employment law was central to the union movement's support before the general election.

Senior union leaders yesterday interpreted the delay as evidence that the Government

was listening to the arguments of trade unionists. However, more cynical observers believed that it was a tactic to ensure that the White Paper would find no place in the Queen's Speech next autumn.

One of the most problematical issues is a proposed law on union recognition. While union members interpret the Labour Party manifesto to mean that collective bargaining should be backed by law where

a majority of workers vote for it in a ballot, the PM's office is calling for a more stringent test of support.

Downing Street believes that 40 per cent of the relevant workforce should endorse collective bargaining before it is granted, not just a simple majority of those voting in a ballot.

While union leaders yesterday told Tony Blair that the TUC was prepared to countenance a figure of 30 per cent,

they came away from Downing Street yesterday with the impression there was no room for compromise.

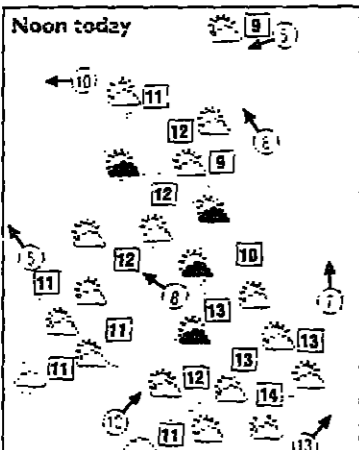
Mr Blair said he was prepared to meet the six-strong "inner circle" of trade unionists again in two weeks time.

It was made clear to employees representatives that while the White Paper would deal with a range of rights at the workplace, its contents has not been finally decided.

John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, said that while the union movement was prepared to be flexible over union recognition, there was a limit to their enthusiasm for compromise.

The TUC leader said there was considerable support for the union stance on the Government's back benches and in the country. "We have been more than reasonable. We have more moves up our sleeves."

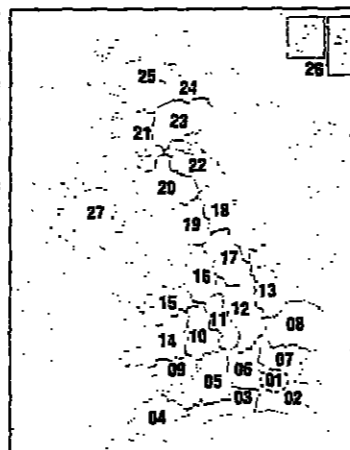
WEATHER



British Isles weather
next 24 hours (approximate figures from local time)

C: cloudy; Cb: clear; F: fog; H: haze; M: mist; R: rain; S: sunny; St: shower; Sh: showers; Ss: snow; T: thunder.

Aberdeen	Sh 9-14	Glasgow	F 12-14
Aberystwyth	F 11-12	Inverness	Sh 11-12
Ayr	F 11-12	Isle of Skye	C 12-14
Belfast	Sh 11-12	Jersey	C 12-14
Birmingham	C 11-12	London	C 12-14
Blackpool	F 11-12	Manchester	Sh 12-14
Bournemouth	F 11-12	Newcastle	F 13-15
Brighton	F 11-12	Oxford	Sh 11-12
Bristol	C 12-14	Plymouth	F 12-14
Cardiff	F 11-12	Scarborough	F 12-14
Cardle	Sh 12-14	Southampton	F 13-15
Doncaster	C 12-14	Stornoway	Sh 7-15
Dublin	Sh 11-12	York	Sh 13-15
Edinburgh	F 11-12		
Exeter	F 14-17		
Glasgow	Sh 10-15		



World weather (next 24 hours, approximate figures from local time)

Algeria	C 12-14	Amman	Sh 12-14	Beijing	C 12-14	Bombay	C 22-24
Algiers	C 12-14	Antwerp	Sh 12-14	Bombay	C 22-24	Bombay	C 22-24
Amman	Sh 12-14	Athens	C 12-14	Bombay	C 22-24	Bombay	C 22-24
Amman	Sh 12-14	Athens	C 12-14	Bombay	C 22-24	Bombay	C 22-24
Amman	Sh 12-14	Athens	C 12-14	Bombay	C 22-24	Bombay	C 22-24

MICHAEL HANLON WEATHER WISE

YET ANOTHER consequence of El Niño has been reported to me by reader Eric Sutherland. He wrote: "Although now 75, I am a very keen scuba diver and I was thoroughly frustrated recently by the paucity of hammerhead sharks both in the Galapagos and Sea of Cortez, due to El Niño." He went on to mention La Niña, the climatic backlash that sometimes, but not always, follows El Niño, as the build up of warm water in the east Pacific is suddenly replaced by an inflating of cold water, pushing sea surface temperatures down several degrees below normal for months. Would this, he wondered, bring back his favourite sharks?

Quite possibly. It is not the warm water per se that is keeping the sharks away. Sharks eat fish and seals (and sometimes, it must be said, scuba divers). Fish and seals eat smaller fish, and they in turn eat plankton. Plankton depend on the nutrients brought up by cold polar waters, and it is the lack of these nutrients that has had such a dramatic effect on the aquatic food chain in the east Pacific. If El Niño is indeed replaced by La Niña later this year, surface temperatures in the places to which Mr Sutherland refers could drop several degrees, the plankton would be back and so would the sharks, which apparently appear in shoals consisting of hundreds of the ferocious predators in the shallow waters above a submerged seamount, a few miles off the coast of La Paz, in Mexico's Baja California.

I am off to this part of the world in a few days time, and will be able to see for myself whether the sharks are indeed showing signs of a comeback. Though I'm not sure quite how closely I will want to investigate the matter.

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DELL

Tehran lifts veil from the spy who never was

By Steve Crawshaw

LAST WEEK, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, helped to lift the veil from the alleged spy who was arrested in Iran, accused of espionage. The Iranian Foreign Minister, Kamal Kharrazi, yesterday said that the report was accurate but old; the arrest took place several months ago.

Yesterday afternoon, the Foreign Office was still chasing up the alleged "Mr Gavin". But the

Iranian embassy confirmed that the reports in fact referred to the prize-winning British film-maker, Gwynne Roberts — as indicated in yesterday's *Independent*. (Mr Roberts' name was almost correct, taking into account Persian transliteration (where Gavin and Gwynne are the same). But almost everything else about the story seems to have been fiction. According to the foreign minister, Mr Kharrazi, "He was

arrested when, having travelled to Kurdistan as a reporter, he was taking films in an area which was off-limits to the public. After that he was set free, and at the moment he is not in Iran."

In reality, Mr Roberts was arrested (and then released) before filming in Kurdistan. He was briefly held when he was in Tehran last November for a Channel Four *Dispatches* programme about the plight of

those who were gassed by Saddam Hussein's forces in Halabja 10 years ago. When he visited a Tehran hospital, without a camera crew, to set up later interviews, he was picked up and taken away for questioning by security officials.

He was quickly released, however, and granted official permission for his film, regarding the continued plight of Kurds who were gassed by Iraqi forces in the town of Halabja 10 years ago.

Mr Roberts, who has been making films about the Middle East for the past 20 years, gained permission both from the Ministry of Islamic Guidance (the journalists' minders) and from the authority responsible for border security. It does not seem likely that such permission would have been granted to a known spy.

There was no reason why Mr Roberts' film — which has been widely shown in the Middle East in recent weeks — should have angered the authorities in Tehran. He declared yesterday: "I am absolutely amazed that the Iranians, given their past support for the people of Halabja, are taking this line." He said he would willingly go to Iran "to discuss the whole matter — they've made a serious mistake".

Branagh deeply serious — for all of 20 minutes

By David Lister
Arts News Editor

ONE OF the most significant British movies of the year started shooting yesterday. It had a starry cast, a deeply serious intent, and was all of 20 minutes long.

Paul McGann, Kenneth Branagh and Sam West will have a few minutes screen time each in *The Dance of Shiva*, with a host of Oscar-winning British talent on the other side of the camera. And, while they shoot *The Dance of Shiva*, which describes the untold story of Indian troops in the First World War, a fly-on-the-wall documentary team will film them at work.

Cinematographer Jack Cardiff, now in his eighties, won an Oscar for *Black Narcissus* back in the Forties, and production designer John Box has four, for *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Dr Zhivago*, *Oliver* and *Nicholas and Alexandra*.

Costume designer Julie Harris worked on *Rollerball*, sound recordist John Mitchell on *The 39 Steps* and editor Julian Doyle on *Bruff*. All have agreed to make the film for little or no money to pass on their enthusiasm for their craft.

The coming together of such a crew led to a day of swapping anecdotes as well as film production — Jack Cardiff, who worked on *The African Queen*, remembering how everyone on the set got dysentery except for the director John Huston and star Humphrey Bogart: the reason, it emerged, was



On the set: Main picture, Kenneth Branagh talking to production designer John Box during the making of *The Dance of Shiva*, which was recorded by a fly-on-the-wall documentary team. Below, Paul McGann being filmed in his role as chaplain

Photographs: Tom Pilsten

that the two of them only drank whisky.

Both yesterday's 20-minute film and the documentary are intended for film festival, video and television release.

The producer and director Jamie Payne, who came up with the idea, said: "Not everyone has the opportunity or desire to go to film school. The recent success of Shane Meadows and Quentin Tarantino is testament to the fact that there are other ways to become a film-maker."

According to the producers, Paul McGann, who plays a chaplain, is passionate about film education.

He is working for no pay at all. McGann, star of the cult film *Withnail & I*, already has a strong following among film students. He fulfills Dame Judi Dench's recent exhortation to actors to keep a sense of mystique.

On his sideboard is a copy of the memoirs of the great British director Michael Powell, which has been dedicated by his widow, the film editor Thelma Schoonmaker, to McGann, "who knows not to give it all away".

That is one of the lessons he and his colleagues will be hoping to convey to the next generation.



TV sitcom to lampoon Labour MPs

By Paul McCann
Media Editor

TELEVISION companies are queuing up to lampoon the Labour government, proving that Tony Blair's honeymoon is but a distant memory. The day after it was announced that Harry Enfield is planning a pastiche on Peter Mandelson for the BBC, ITV revealed that it has a satirical sitcom in the pipeline featuring three fictitious Labour MPs.

ITV wants *Birds Of A Feather* star, Pauline Quirke, to play a character based on Clare Short in the programme. The broadcaster is debating whether to call it *New Labour New Sitcom*, or *On Message*.

The Clare Short character is a traditional Old Labour left-winger who played along with Tony Blair's changes to the party before the election, but is now disappointed at the Government's cautious approach to power.

She shares a flat with two other backbenchers, one based on Michael Foot, who ITV wants to be played by Peter O'Toole, and a young ambitious Blair loyalist who believes everything the party tells him.

The sitcom is being written by political journalist and broadcaster Simon Hoggart and is being made by London Weekend Television for the ITV network. "It is a cross between *Hot Metal* and *Yes, Minister*," said Marcus Plantin, director of programmes at LWT. "It shows that the honeymoon is over and that the government is facing a satire boom."

The programme will follow the example of *Drop The Dead Donkey* by being filmed in the week of transmission so it can include topical references and jokes.

LWT also revealed at the Montreux Television Festival that it had been planning a special World Cup game show, *Best of Enemies*, that would have featured the English football squad competing against the German team to answer questions on football trivia.

However, the German national team pulled out last week and a spokesman said Germany did not consider England an enemy. Instead, the Germans said, they wanted to take on the Dutch. As well as the present squad the show was set to star Geoff Hurst, scorer of the winning goal in the 1966 World Cup final.

In more innocent times the *Blankety-Blank* cheque book and pen was enough to excite the contestants of your average television quiz show. But in a sign of the avaricious times ITV has announced plans for the world's first £1m quiz show.

Titled *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire*, the show resembles *Twenty-One*, the Fifties American programme that was the inspiration for the movie *Quiz Show*. The programme is the logical culmination of years of prize-giving inflation and the heightened appetite for free money created by the National Lottery.

Before the 1990 Broadcasting Act the most anyone could win was £5,000 cash, and total prize money for a show could not exceed £6,000. Instead television companies gave away cars and holidays to get around the restrictions. Since the limit was lifted, show prizes have progressively spiralled first to £10,000, then £20,000 and recently to £100,000.

Now Camelot, through the BBC, also gives winners on *The National Lottery Big Ticket* show £100,000.

First three months of 1998 warmest period on record

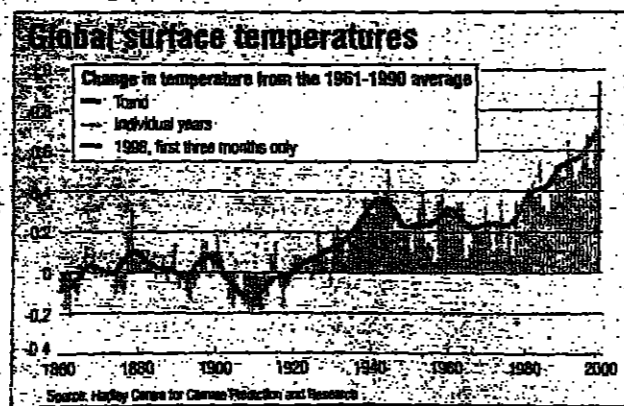
By Michael McCarthy
Environment Correspondent

JANUARY, February and March this year were the warmest three-month period ever recorded for the world, new British figures reveal. The global average temperature for the quarter was well over half a degree higher than normal.

The figures will give further credence to the belief that global warming caused by industrial exhaust gases such as carbon dioxide is inexorably changing the world's climate.

The figures indicate that 1998 as a whole will be extremely warm, and perhaps warmer than the three previous warmest years, which are 1997, 1995 and 1990.

However, soaring temperatures in the Southern Hemisphere summer, helped by the El Nino weather phenomenon, have pushed the figure up, and the average for the year as a whole may fall back if and when the El Nino effect declines later this year.



The global surface temperature record, which goes back to 1860 and is maintained at the Met. Office's Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research in Bracknell, Berks, now shows that the first three months of 1998 were 0.6°C above the global mean, which is the average temperature of the years 1961 to 1990.

This makes these months both the warmest January, February and March ever recorded, and also the warmest of any three-month period since the records began.

This year's first quarter was also Britain's second warmest winter on record, 2.4°C above the average, surpassed in the Central England Temperature record — which goes back to 1659 — only by 1990.

"This year is likely to be very warm but not necessarily the warmest because the El Nino effect may weaken later on," said Briony Horton, manager of the Hadley Centre's global data archive. "But the temperature anomaly for the first three months is certainly very large."

Nine out of the 10 warmest years recorded have occurred since 1983.

£9m loan for Rod Stewart in royalties deal

By Andrew Buncombe

THE man who once thrust his satin-clad crotch at his admiring fans and demanded to know "Do ya think I'm sexy?", has moved into the more sanitised world of securitised loans.

Rod Stewart, for some one of the finest white rock voices of a generation, has clinched a £9.2m securitised loan based on the future royalties of his songs. In short, this means he is receiving now the royalties he would receive over the coming years.

Many people who sang along to songs such as "Maggie May" and "Sailing" back in the Seventies will undoubtedly find the thought of Rod Stewart entering the world of corporate finance slightly strange. But Mr Stewart, 53, who once was considered something of an innovator, is merely following a trend: last year David Bowie raised around £35m in a similar record-making deal.

While such deals are good for the person receiving the loan, it is slightly more risky for the bank issuing the bonds, because the basis for future income is the notoriously fickle public taste.

However it seems that securitisation, already big in the United States, is set to be increasingly common. Following David Bowie's deal, a number of US banks had reportedly been trying to persuade other musicians to take up similar deals. Other big names said to be considering deals include Pink Floyd, Bob Dylan, the Rolling Stones and Dire Straits.

A spokeswoman for Mr Stewart's record company said she was not aware of the details of the deal, but did think he had any particular need for the money. The loan has been made by Nomura Capital, a Japanese banking group, who has been working on the deal for several months.

"We see this as an important transaction because the Rod Stewart music catalogue is of global renown," said the company's executive vice president of entertainment finance, Neil Sacker.

Leading article, page 18

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Girl visited paedophile in 'secure' hospital

A GIRL of eight frolicked with a convicted paedophile sometimes dressed only in her knickers during visits to a high security hospital, an inquiry into one of its units heard yesterday.

The child made a number of unsupervised visits to the ward with her father, a former patient, and would play in the garden with a man convicted of sex crimes against young girls, it was claimed.

Stephen Daggett, who was a patient in the Personality Disorder Unit (PDU) of Ashworth special Hospital on Merseyside, told the inquiry into its running that he "blew the whistle" because of his concerns about the girl's visits. He had also been worried about the availability of drugs, alcohol and pornography.

Daggett, who was found guilty in 1984 of sexually assaulting girls, told the third and

final sitting of the inquiry at Knutsford Crown Court, Cheshire, that the girl, Child A, would go with Peter Hemming into unsupervised areas of Lawrence Ward.

Hemming, described by John Royce, QC, counsel for the inquiry, as a man with a "history of paedophilia with young girls", was a fellow patient of Daggett's on Lawrence Ward in the PDU where Daggett stayed from 1993 until he absconded in September 1996 during a lone escort shopping trip to Liverpool.

During his time on the run, some of which was spent in Holland, Daggett began making his allegations about the PDU.

After his return in October 1996 he wrote a document entitled *Ashworth Hospital - My Concerns*, which has been submitted to the inquiry committee

which began its work last February. He said his running away had been carefully planned and was a protest against his treatment and the "environment" of the unit and the activities there.

It was those concerns that had led him to write the document which resulted in the current inquiry chaired by Judge Peter Fallon, QC.

Daggett said that during her visits had seen Child A dressed only in her knickers "three or four times". He had witnessed her playing games in the garden with Hemming - games that he did not believe to be "for the child's benefit".

Daggett, now a patient at Rampton special hospital, said he had also seen photographs of Child A in Hemming's room. In the pictures she was dressed in pink pyjamas and in her

school uniform, he said. He believed the girl's father had been given money by Hemming for his contact with her.

However, under cross-examination by Philip Engelman, counsel for the Royal College of Nursing, Daggett said he had never witnessed sexual activity taking place between Child A and Hemming.

The inquiry was ordered by former Secretary of State for Health Stephen Dorrell following Daggett's claims. The hearing continues today.

Five prison officers were injured when more than 30 prisoners took control of part of a jail, damaging furniture and windows, it emerged yesterday.

Prison staff at Full Sutton, Humberside, have regained control after 32 inmates in D wing began rioting. Five prison officers were injured.



Down the Tube Graeme Garden, Humphrey Lyttelton, Barry Cryer and Tim Brooke-Taylor sitting on a bench at the reopening of Mornington Crescent, the Northern Line Tube station they made famous in a Radio 4 quiz. Photograph: Andrew Bauman

Lawrence murder 'not racial'

By Kathy Marks

A DETECTIVE who investigated the murder of the black teenager Stephen Lawrence yesterday dismissed the idea that it was racially motivated, saying his attackers had been out to kill someone, regardless of colour.

Former detective sergeant John Davidson told the public inquiry into Stephen's death that the five suspects, members of a white gang, had been linked to violent assaults on two white youths. "This was not racism, this was pure, bloody-minded thuggery. Stephen would have been killed had he been black, white, green, blue or yellow. They picked on him because he was there, not for any other reason."

Stephen, 18, was stabbed at a bus stop in Eltham, south-east London, in 1993. The inquiry is examining whether racism hindered the investigation. At the Old Bailey in 1996, Neil Acourt, Gary Dobson and Luke Knight were acquitted of killing Stephen. Charges against Jamie Acourt, Neil's brother, and David Norris were dropped at an earlier stage.

Mr Davidson, who retired last month, was accused by Michael Mansfield, QC, for the Lawrence family, of "writ-

ing off" a number of important witnesses and "queering the pitch" in relation to local teenagers who knew the suspects. "I completely and utterly disagree with you," he said. "No one would give evidence against these lads: they were frightened of them."

Questioned by Jeremy Gompertz, QC, for the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Mr Davidson said that later, when he was in the South-East Regional Crime Squad, he arrested Norris's father, Clifford, who was wanted by Customs. He was later tried and convicted.

Mr Davidson said he did not know the families of any of the suspects when he joined the Lawrence investigation.

"So if it is suggested in any shape or form that you held back deliberately for corrupt reasons, what do you say about that?" Mr Gompertz asked. "I refute it completely," he replied.

Cross-examined by Mr Mansfield, Mr Davidson said he found a diary kept by Michelle Casserley, a friend of the suspects, during a search of her home. In it, she had written: "Acourt stabbed black boy on Well Hall Road. Jamie and Neil. Gary, David, Lukic."

The inquiry continues today.

Parental choice warning

MINISTERS yesterday told local authorities that they must not cut class sizes by taking children out of popular schools to fill places in unpopular ones.

They sent out new guidelines as part of their pledge to reduce all infant class sizes below 30.

Critics have said that the policy will threaten parental choice because schools will have to turn children away from popular schools when class sizes reach 30. But the guidelines say "where extra places are needed they should be created in popular, over-subscribed schools with high standards".

Driver denies food bug link

A DRIVER who delivered meat to a church lunch in Wishaw, Lanarkshire, which has been linked to the poisoning of pensioners, denied turning off a refrigerator to listen to his radio, a fatal accident inquiry heard yesterday.

Ronald Holloway, from Wishaw, also said he had no formal hygiene training during the years he had worked for John M Barr and Son, the butcher's shop which was linked to the world's worst *E. coli* outbreak. He was giving evidence to the inquiry into the food poisoning which claimed the lives of 21 elderly people in 1996 and 97. The Motherwell hearing is expected to last three months.

HIV tests in pregnancy

PREGNANT women should be offered HIV tests to help protect their babies from infection, a report said yesterday.

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and the Public Health Laboratories Service said tests should be available in all ante-natal clinics. About 300 babies are born HIV positive in the UK each year and a majority of the mothers were unaware they had the virus.

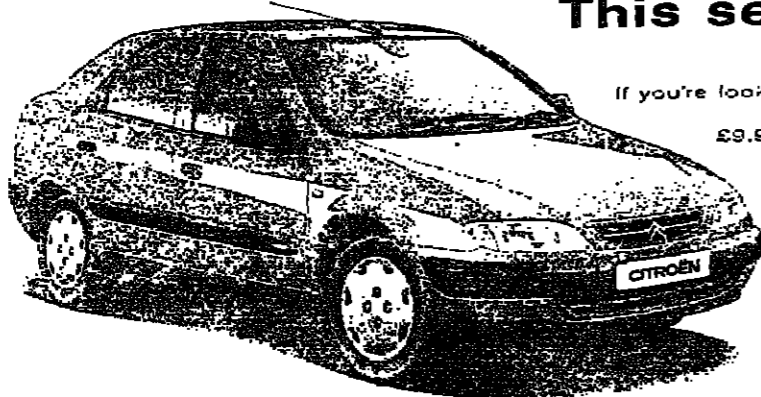
Collimore cleared of assault

FOOTBALLER Stan Collimore was yesterday found not guilty of punching his ex-girlfriend during a row over access to their son. England and Aston Villa striker Collimore hugged his agent when magistrates in Cannock, Staffordshire returned after an hour's deliberation to acquit him. Magistrates chairman Rosemary Taylor told the player: "We find there is reasonable doubt and therefore find you not guilty. You are free to go."

The soccer star had denied a charge of common assault on Michelle Green, 23, on 22 December last year. It was alleged that an argument had developed during a discussion about Collimore's access to his son Thomas - now two - over Christmas.



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A rose by any other name ...

PERHAPS William Hague is more Shakespearean in character than Pandora had previously believed. The *Liberal Democrat* has just published an account of the recent 175th anniversary dinner of the Oxford Union which casts a new, possibly darker light on Young William.

An informant overheard solicitor Philip Goldenberg asking another returning Union member if he recalled a tribunal of inquiry into possible misdeeds during a long-ago Union election. "Oh hell, yes I do," said William Hague, who had appeared as an "alleged miscreant" before the other man. "When you were running for public office last year," continued Goldenberg, "I very nearly wrote to *The Independent* pointing out that, while you appeared before me, you did not feature in my judgment; and that I was forced into concluding either that you were as pure as the driven snow, or that you had a pretty good capacity to work through a heap of shit and come out smelling of roses." Hague reportedly found this very funny. Still, Richard III he's not.

Model temper flares again

NAOMI CAMPBELL is upset, once again, with American fashion magazines for not featuring enough black women on their covers. Last July, Anna Wintour, editor of



American Vogue, admitted that skin colour "dramatically affects newsstand sales". Campbell was upset last week with *Harper's Bazaar* which failed to put her on the cover of the issue which featured a Cuban fashion shoot - one Naomi herself had arranged - with Kate Moss. Does *British Vogue* rate any better? Pandora's inquiry revealed that Naomi (left) has appeared on four *Brit Vogue* covers, most recently

in January. On the other hand, Naomi has been one of the world's top models for almost a decade and four covers doesn't exactly mean we're colour blind over here.

Euro currency for US crime

CRIME pays and - it's now official - America reaps the benefits. US economists are worried that the euro may prove too popular with international criminals, and, as a result, cost the US Treasury billions, according to yesterday's *New York Times*.

Apparently, the US benefits to the tune of \$28bn every year from having \$400bn in circulation. Since America is now in many respects a "cash-less" society, it's obvious that mountains of the "greenbacks" find a home within the vast underground global criminal economy. The largest US note in circulation is \$100, while there are plans to issue euro notes equivalent to \$200 and \$500. According to one nervous Princeton economist, "You'll be able to smuggle a million in or out of the country in a purse instead of a suitcase." Faced with this new competition, Pandora predicts the Yanks will soon issue new crime-friendly large bills. Richard "I am not a crook" Nixon might make a fitting presidential face for a \$500 note.

Wasted words of wisdom

SADLY, Pandora must conclude that a silver tongue is not a requirement for debating in the House of Commons.

Matthew Taylor, Lib Dem MP for Truro, recently made this clear when he asked the Secretary of State for the Environment, "for what reason the UK delegation to the 10th session of the negotiations for a UNECE Commission for Europe Convention concerning public participation in environmental decision-making did not support a proposal to provide for public participation in transfrontier movements of radioactive waste?"

After days of effort, Pandora has managed to decipher this question. Taylor is asking why Britain refused to back a UN proposal that governments should tell their citizens before bringing dangerous radioactive waste into the country. In view of last week's shipment of Georgian nuclear waste to Donmresy, revealed to this British people by the *New York Times*, Pandora thinks this was a reasonable question, unfortunately expressed.

Pandora

DAILY POEM

A journal of Three Questions

By Charles Wright

Bees at the six-pointed junked blooms,
Ants on the move on the undersides

And down the stems
Into a vast, prehensile darkness
Around the roots of the wheat grass and the violets.

Who was it first recognised the beginning of the end?
How many miles exist between the light and the dark
When light and dark are obscured?

Who can dis-

guish them?

Bees and ants are mean creatures, their powers pervasive.

This poem comes from *Zone Journals*, the latest collection by Charles Wright, who has won this year's Pulitzer Prize for poetry. *Zone Journals* is published (price £7.95) by Stride Publications at 11 Selvan Road, Exeter EX4 6EW.

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Legal & General

Solving the secret of children's pain

By Jeremy Laurence
Health Editor

CHILDREN are suffering needlessly because doctors do not know how to treat their pain, specialists said yesterday.

Little is known about the biology of children's nervous systems or how they respond to drugs. As a result children are denied powerful pain killers because of fears that they may do more harm than good.

Launching the world's first children's pain research centre at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, Professor Al Aynsley-Green, director of clinical research and development, said until 10 years ago young babies and infants were thought to be unable to perceive pain. Now treatment of pain was recognised to speed recovery from disease but anecdotal reports suggested children were still not humanely treated everywhere.

"There was no lack of compassion but there was a pre-occupation with survival at any cost and there was concern that powerful analgesics might be damaging," he said.

The centre, backed with £500,000 from the charity, Children Nationwide,



In control: Karen Wood, 15, administering her own pain relief
Photograph: Rul Xavier

will develop new treatments and assess the efficiency of existing ones. It is seeking a total of £1m to fund the first six years of research.

Maria Fitzgerald, professor of neurodevelopmental biology at University College London, said three assumptions underlay doctors' approach to childhood pain: that infants did not feel it as adults did; that they might become addicted to pain-relieving drugs such as morphine. All three were wrong but attitudes were slow to change. "It is

not due to inhumanity and lack of care but because there is a lack of information," she said.

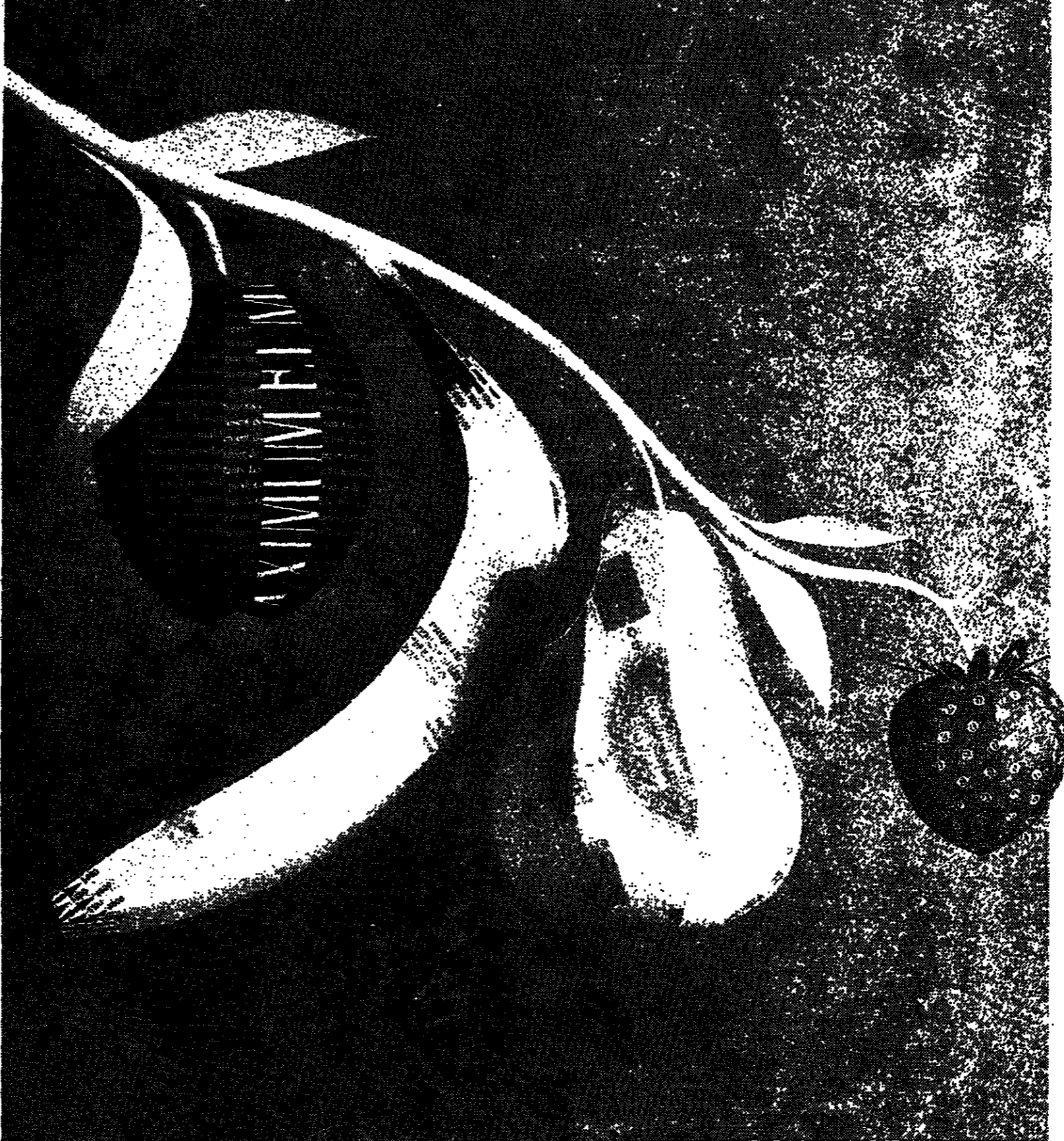
Dr Ann Goldman, consultant in palliative care, said two thirds of children with cancer would need powerful painkillers at some point during the

course of their treatment but it was wrong to regard them as small adults. Studies showed that children under seven metabolised morphine and cleared it from their bodies more quickly than children over nine, suggesting that younger children might need bigger or more frequent doses than older ones.

Children as young as five were being given control of their own pain relief, by pressing a button which delivered another shot of the drug through a drip into their arm. The machine is set so that they cannot overdose but the psychological effect of being in control added to the pharmacological effect of the drugs.

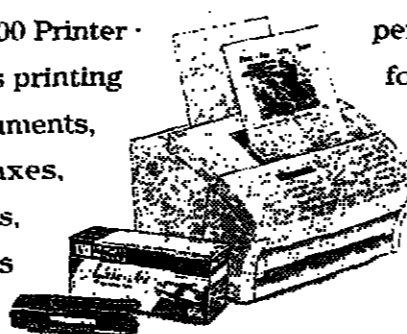
Dr Kevin Murray, consultant rheumatologist said children were routinely excluded from drug trials so fewer drugs were available for them than for adults. In the US, new regulations now required researchers to explain if they were excluding children. "We cannot wait 10 or 12 years to see if the drugs work in adults before we can see if they work in children," Dr Murray said.

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Animal feed firms deny causing BSE

By Charles Arthur
Science and Technology Editor

ANIMAL feed manufacturers yesterday denied responsibility for the BSE epidemic, and claimed that their reluctance to tell farmers that they were turning cattle into cannibals was necessary for commercial success.

In evidence to the BSE inquiry in London, representatives of animal feed mills asserted that the idea that infected cattle feed caused bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) is still formally untested.

"It's a hypothesis, and we would certainly like to know what the real reason is," said Peter Sanderson, quality assurance manager for the feed makers BOCOM Foods.

Jim Reed, director-general of the UK Agricultural Supply Trade Association, which includes about 100 feed makers, said: "We would like to be certain, rather than working - like everybody else - on theories."

Under questioning, the feed company representatives painted a picture in which the post-war dairy farming community engaged in a "dash for growth", trying to produce more milk from faster-maturing cattle: between 1973 and 1983, average cow milk yields increased by 25 per cent.

This followed the use of high-protein supplements including "meat and bone meal" (MBM) made by rendering companies from leftover parts, such as the head and bones, taken from abattoirs. The parts were heated under pressure to remove moisture and fat, leaving solids - MBM - which could have come from cattle or sheep.

MBM has been used in animal feed for 90 years, feed companies said, without any ill-effects - until the advent of BSE. Helen Raine, of J Bibby Agriculture, said that though tests for pathogens were carried out on supply samples, "it's always the case that you don't test for things

that you're not aware of." There is still no simple test for BSE infectivity in any material.

The idea that BSE was spread by infected animal feed emerged from government scientists' early studies of the epidemic - and is strengthened by the fact that regulations introduced in 1989, banning the use of highly infective tissues such as brain and spinal cord to make cattle feed, has virtually ended the epidemic.

The National Farmers' Union challenged the feed manufacturers, in written evidence from Ben Gill, the NFU president. He said that members had wanted more information about what they were feeding their cattle.

"The NFU does not accept the arguments of difficulty in providing precise lists of ingredients," said Mr Gill. "Farmers did not accept that a simple declaration of the material ingredients would expose the [feed manufacturer] to risk of

their formulations being 'stolen' by their competitors."

But Mr Reed said it was not feasible to provide labels detailing exact proportions of MBM and other ingredients, because their computer technology only improved that far in the early 1990s - just in time for a 1992 EU directive making labelling obligatory.

Feed companies could not have distinguished whether MBM came originally from cows or sheep, since both passed through the rendering process and were delivered as "MBM". Companies also kept trying different compositions of feed to try to create food that would make cows gain weight faster.

Mr Reed added: "Small feed companies were always in a competitive market. The NFU might dismiss that as irrelevant in the long term. But to a company that thought one ingredient or another might give it a commercial edge, it was very important at the time."



Swan song: Dancer Anna Pavlova with Jack in 1927, from *The Face in the Corner*, a new book by Robin Gibson of pictures of celebrities and their pets, selected from the National Portrait Gallery in London. Photograph: Lafayette

£40m boost to revive rural bus services

By Randeep Ramesh
Transport Correspondent

ISOLATED rural communities in England are to get a £40m cash boost designed to bring back buses to village life, ministers will announce today.

The Government says it is keen to promote public transport in rural areas. Ministers point out that three-quarters of countryside parishes have no daily bus service while 20 per cent of rural households do not have a car.

Getting the largest chunk of the money available are nine of the "most rural" counties in England, (defined as those with the most countryside villages with fewer than 3,000 inhabitants). Those authorities which will double their bus subsidies include Suffolk, North Yorkshire and Kent.

The money will make a substantial difference. In Norfolk, where nearly 300,000 people live in small country villages, bus services are allocated about £1.25m a year. This will be closer to £3m after the handout.

Somerset will see a 200 per cent increase in funding for bus services. Cornwall, the poorest region in the country, has 224,000 rural residents, who will see the benefits of an extra £1m in subsidy.

Gavin Strang, the transport minister, will point out that the Government is trying to reverse the decline in bus patronage. He will tell trade unionists at a conference today that the number of "parishes without any bus services

has gone up from 14 to 22 per cent since 1991". In his speech, Mr Strang is to highlight how poverty can be alleviated by improved transport links.

Bus trips have been cut as local authorities' budgets have been squeezed by successive governments. Bus companies yesterday said they were "very pleased" to hear extra money would be made available.



Gavin Strang: Trying to reverse decline in bus usage

In Lincolnshire, ministers will more than double the bus budget. "At present we get about £800,000 a year," said Paul Hill, managing director of Lincolnshire RoadCar - the county's largest bus company. "With an extra £1m pounds we will be looking at a much improved service."

Mr Hill said that many communities were cut off from large shopping developments in the region. "Especially on a Sunday, when there is little or no money for buses," he added.

Single-gene clue to the cause of cancer

By Jeremy Lawrence
Health Editor

A SINGLE gene may have a major role in protecting people exposed to carcinogens from developing cancer, scientists said yesterday. Researchers in three centres in Scotland who studied the gene said it could explain why some people who smoke develop cancer while others do not.

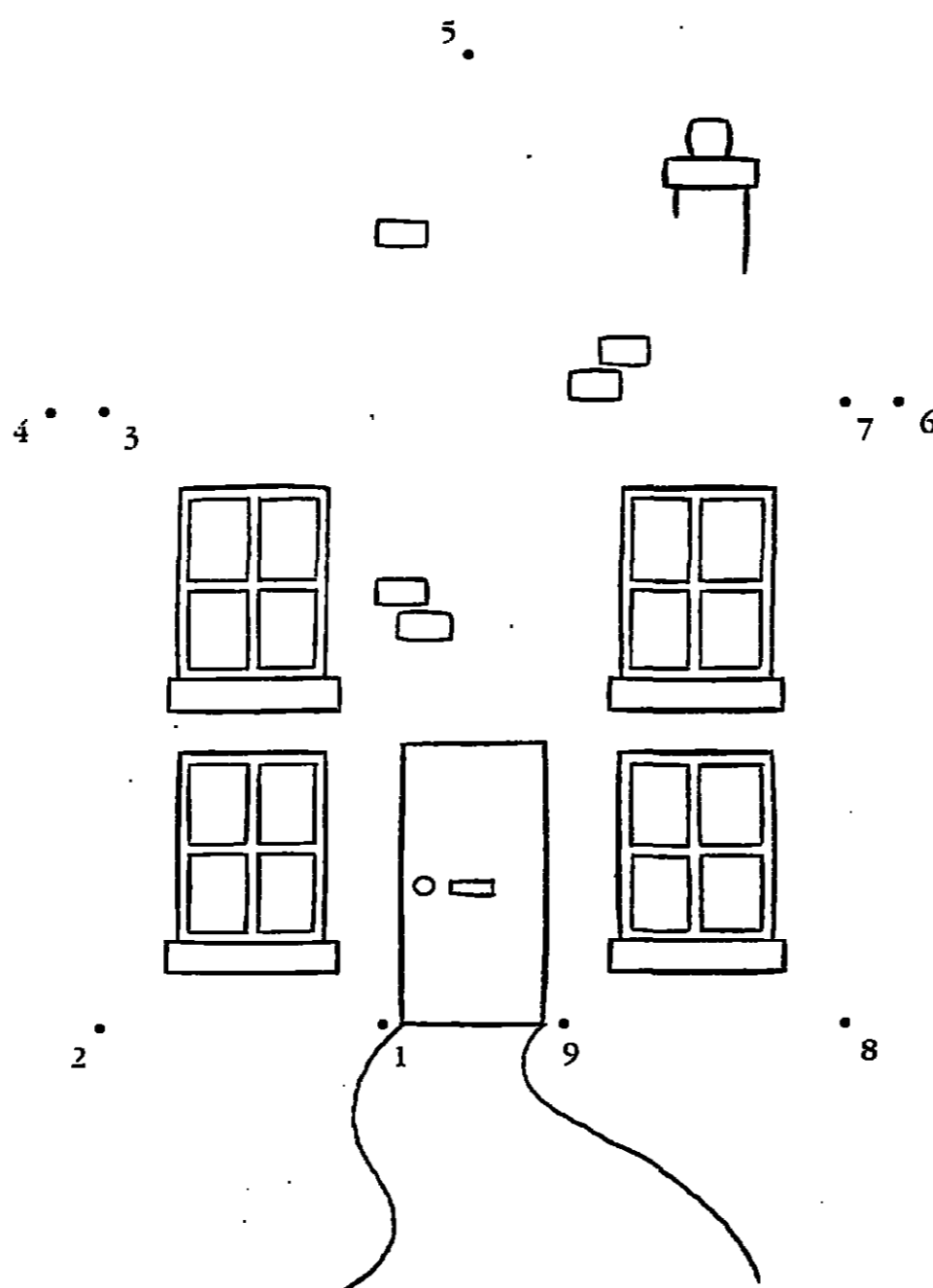
Roland Wolf, of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's molecular pharmacology unit at Ninewells hospital, Dundee, said: "It has long been known that our bodies contain factors which determine our sensitivity to cancer-causing chemicals. Now we have shown for the first time that a single gene could be profoundly important in protecting us against cancer. That is good news, because it is easier to manipulate one gene than many."

The researchers did experiments on mice in which a gene known to be active in the detoxification of cancer-causing chemicals was deleted. When chemicals derived from tobacco smoke were applied to their

skin, the mice with the deleted gene developed tumours. "You take out the gene and you find they have lost their protection against the chemical," said Prof Wolf. The deleted gene makes an enzyme called glutathione S-transferase. A similar gene is found in humans which is important in the lungs and bladder, two tissues in which smoking is known to play an important cancer-inducing role.

The gene occurs in several forms, with different capacities for detoxifying carcinogens. The researchers, whose findings are published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, believe its influence on the risk of developing cancer would depend on which form of the gene was present in the body. Prof Wolf said manipulating the amount of the protective enzymes in the cells could offer a defence against cancer.

Ken Brown, of the Cancer Research Campaign, said the finding raised the possibility in the future of scientists using genetic engineering to prevent certain cancers.



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Councils are refusing to bail out treatment groups overwhelmed by an explosion in addiction. Ian Burrell reports on a growing crisis that is leaving users to face jail

Drug centres swamped by young addicts

By Ian Burrell
Home Affairs Editor

MANY of Britain's resource-starved drug treatment centres fear they will be unable to cope with large numbers of new referrals by the courts.

Drugs organisations said yesterday that many new centres which opened at the start of the decade amid government concern at the explosion in drug use among young people were now in dire straits.

Many are swamped with referrals and have waiting lists of up to a year. Others have been hit by funding problems and have had to hike up their charges to levels which local authorities refuse to pay.

Ron Alexander, a spokesman for Turning Point, said that treatment centres which had thrived in the early Nineties were now suffering from a distinct lack of public sympathy. Diana, Princess of Wales, who was the charity's patron, came to refer to it as one of her "uncuddly causes".

A survey of treatment centres by the Standing Conference on Drug Abuse (Scoda) has found that waiting lists of up to four months are common, and one centre cannot take new referrals for nearly two years.

Roger Howard, Scoda's chief executive, said: "A drug user that is an addict will be committing something in the order of five crimes a week. So we have a situation where for many months people are committing crimes and at the same time not getting their health problems addressed."

Research released yesterday by the Maudsley Hospital in Camberwell, south London, found that a study group of 1,100 long-term drug users committed £34m worth of crime in the three months prior to receiving treatment.

The Government has put aside £40m to pay for the introduction of the new Drug Treatment and Testing Order, which is designed to

help the courts direct people away from custody into treatment.

But the drugs organisations said that with some 20 per cent of criminals testing positive for heroin or cocaine, this figure would be nowhere near enough for a system which was already unable to cope with demand. Most under pressure are the residential care homes.

Lorne House, a multi-substance treatment centre which specialises in young addicts, is under threat of imminent closure following a the removal of a £74,000 local authority grant.

"The loss of funding has meant that the centre has had to increase its weekly charges from £290 to £500," Jo Searle, the centre's project manager, said. Young offenders who had been accepted by Lorne House on remand, were instead being sent to jail by the courts because their local authorities could not afford the new treatment fees.

"Each day our situation gets more and more critical as fewer local authorities can afford to pay the prices," she said.

She called on the Government to give Keith Hellawell, the national anti-drugs co-ordinator, control of a national budget for funding treatment centres, which are currently dependent on over-stretched local authorities.

Motorists will be asked to participate in a second round of roadside drugs testing which began yesterday in a week-long trial by Scotland's largest police force. Drivers will be stopped at random and asked to voluntarily give a sample of saliva on a cottonbud swab by Strathclyde police officers.

The sample will then be inserted into a disposable cartridge where a chemical reaction takes place. An electronic evaluation instrument will read the reaction and display the results within five minutes.

The device will detect cannabis, cocaine, amphetamines, benzodiazepines and opiates.



Dean, a drug user, sitting and listening during a peer evaluation meeting at the Lorne House substance abuse centre. Meetings are held weekly. Photograph: Adrian Dennis

Children hooked on narcotics education

By Louise Jury

IN a west London primary-school classroom, 11-year-old Natasha is staking her claim to be Jack Straw's official spokeswoman.

With the support of friends, she is defending the need for a drugs policy for kids like the one at her school, Avondale Park Primary. "When you're older it might be too late," Natasha said. "People go around to children of our age [with drugs], because not many children are taught what we are. I actually think we're lucky to be getting this education."

Although the head teacher,

Patricia Clark, says they are only doing what many good schools are doing, Avondale Park has a drugs education policy highly recommended by the experts. The principle is that drugs cannot be seen in isolation from a programme of general health and social education. The emphasis is on developing the child's confidence and presenting them with arguments to resist peer pressure and make a choice for themselves. Just say no was the drugs motto of the past.

This school's policy is called Saying No Isn't Always Easy. It is a concept that Natasha, with her friends Ebru, Edriss, Lee and Rupert have

grasped. The finer points of heroin or cocaine addiction are a lesson for the future. The conversation is largely general: names are mentioned of other children who have been offered drugs outside school, though the details are sometimes vague. "Weed, I think," says Rupert, of the temptation once offered him.

They talk about how you might lose your temper if you cannot get your drugs or how people use amphetamines to keep going. And they can repeat the messages from anti-drug education: "It's not just yourself you're hurting, but everyone around you," says one.

With the help of Ed Murphy, who formerly worked in New York and has 20 years' experience in the field, drugs, from prescription medicals to illegal substances, are discussed for their benefits - morphine in surgery, for instance - their misuse and their abuse.

"Some are dangerous and some are good for you," Rupert says. "Every drug is dangerous unless you use it right."

Natasha says Ed does not push them into saying no, but they believe no is the right decision. Lee says: "Because I'm going to be involved in sport when I'm older, I decided I'm not going to smoke, and

I'm only going to drink on special occasions." The children are clearly aware of other influences than simply their schoolfriends. "It's the background you come from," Natasha says. "It is easier if you have supportive parents. We always need good support. We're only children."

But Ms Clark says they are children in a world where television, video and the Internet have made them more aware of the perils of modern life than any previous generation. For any critics of drugs education in primary schools, Ebru has the final and decisive word: "We've learned to say no," she says.

From heroin to ecstasy: 100 years of abuse in Britain

Jason Bennetto finds music and economics have a central role in the drug culture

DRUG-TAKING has come a long way since middle-class ladies held cannabis-smoking parties in 1920s London, and small groups of literary types relaxed in opium dens. People in Britain today take a greater variety and quantity of drugs at a younger age than ever before. Researchers estimate there are 4 million consumers of illicit drugs. About 130,000 are considered "problem users". Teenagers can buy heroin, LSD and ecstasy for pocket-money prices throughout the country.

Drugs became a national phenomenon in the early 1970s, accelerated rapidly in the 1980s, then exploded in the past decade. Surveys of schoolchildren suggest drug use has increased eightfold since 1989.

The reasons for the expansion in the use and variety of drugs available are complex but two factors appeared to have played a key role in most of the changes this century - developments in youth culture, particularly music-based, and the economy. At the turn of the century Britain was a drug-free zone. For the first 20 years the main exceptions were Chinese-run opium dens where men and women could smoke it without fear of prosecution.

The clubs, most of which were based in London, attracted literary figures such as Lewis Carroll as well as some women who became addicted and ended up as prostitutes. One of the five main evils of the era was considered to be women in opium dens. Another fashionable, and legal, activity, was cannabis-smoking parties, occasionally held by middle-class



Trend-setter: The Chinese-run opium dens of the early part of the century first made drug-taking fashionable when they attracted literary figures such as Lewis Carroll. Photograph: Hulton Getty

seriousness, A, B and C, for court sentencing remains the most important piece of legislation.

The 1980s recession heralded the first "heroin epidemic", particularly in estates in cities such as Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow. Fears of an accompanying HIV infection epidemic brought a new approach by the Government aimed more at damage limitation rather than "Just Say No" sloganeering, with greater use of the heroin substitute, methadone. Glue sniffing also hit the headlines at the beginning of the 1980s. Warnings of a US-style crack cocaine epidemic failed to materialise.

The rave scene and all-night club culture hit Britain in 1987/8 and found the perfect partner in ecstasy, which could keep you dancing and high for hours. It also boosted consumption of amphetamines. The ecstasy club scene continued into the mid-Nineties but has dropped off in the past few years as raves and poor-quality "E" tablets have lost their appeal.

As the price of drugs plummeted, so their use rocketed. The country is seeing a second heroin epidemic, in which the drug is pouring in from Asia for as little as £3 a hit. Cocaine is back in fashion.

East European pharmaceutical factories find it more profitable to churn out ecstasy and speed rather than headache tablets. This decade has also seen teenage girls catch up with boys in drug use by the age of 15 and rural areas face the same drug problems as urban ones.

ladies. In 1920 the Dangerous Drugs Act made opiates such as heroin and cocaine only available on prescription from doctors. In 1925 cannabis, or Indian Hemp, as it was known, was outlawed following concerns in other countries about its harmful side-effects.

Little is known about drug consumption in the Thirties and Forties except that it was limited. During the Second World War troops were given amphetamines to keep them alert during military operations. The Fifties saw the moderate influence of the Teddy Boys and later, more importantly, the Mods and Rockers. With the new rebellious music and fashion came greater use of stimulants such as amphetamines, or "speed".

But it was the Sixties that marked the start of the popular drugs culture. Hippie lifestyles included cannabis and hallucinates such as LSD and amphetamines. In 1964 possession of amphetamine was made illegal and a year later so

was LSD. Towards the end of the decade barbiturates abuse kicked in and led to the establishment of the first detoxification centres. It took until 1984 before barbiturates became a prescription-only drug.

In 1965 the government-sponsored "Brain Committee" first identified heroin as a serious problem, mainly among young working-class men from London and the Home Counties, who were injecting it. Heroin was still relatively easy to get on prescription - one doctor was known to have given out 6kg of the substance in one year, although there were still only 3,000 notified addicts in 1969. The year before the Government restricted the availability of the drug to a small number of licensed doctors.

The next decade saw a gradual rise in the use of most drugs and the expansion to all major cities. The Punk movement helped boost sales of amphetamines. The 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act, which categorised substances into three classes of

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Straw's aim to put the lads in work

By Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

JACK STRAW yesterday said the problem of dealing with under-skilled and under-educated young men is the single most serious social problem faced by Britain.

The Home Secretary confirmed more male role models at school are part of the Government's strategy for tackling the increasing problem of "lad-dish" behaviour among boys.

Responding to the report in *The Independent* yesterday he confirmed that he and David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, are spearheading action to tackle social exclusion and truancy among boys.

"We are tackling head-on the issue of under-employment and unemployment. It is the problem. Dealing with under-skilled, under-educated young men is the single most serious social problem we face."

"Twenty years ago there was a natural transition from adolescence to adulthood for these young men because there were more jobs available to them. There aren't now."

"The whole purpose of the welfare-to-work programme is to tackle head-on the unemployment and to give them a sense of purpose and raise their self-esteem," Mr Straw said on BBC radio.

He said the Government was not being "pious" but acting from practical experience -

as reported yesterday, Mr Straw said he has been the chairman of governors of an inner London school for three years, and saw girls doing 40 per cent better than boys at school.

"It's very complicated. It's because the time when males were king of the castle has gone. There were wars where men were the lion kings, used to get killed for their country and their women gave men a different image from that. Tie that into with the decline in traditional employment opportunities for under-skilled men and the growth of drugs and you have got this situation."

Speaking of his own family, including his son who had been questioned by police over the alleged supply of cannabis at Christmas, Mr Straw said: "As I can testify, it doesn't follow that just because you have two parents at home your lads won't get into trouble."

"This is also a problem not just for dysfunctional families but also for functional families. If there isn't a male role model at home or at school, lads are more likely to get into trouble and stay in trouble."

Mr Straw said there should be more male teachers at primary school by making teaching more attractive to men.

"It's not so much the expense - it's making the teaching of younger children attractive to men; we ought to be able to do that. Men have this macho image about themselves, but it is important."

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Starting point: Chancellor Gordon Brown launching the New Deal national network of training centres for young people entering the hotel, catering and leisure industry at a pilot centre in north London yesterday

Mark
I enjoy cooking
and this has
helped to start
my career
prospects.

Doris
This programme
built up my

Branson the people's choice to become London's mayor

By David Walker
Social Policy Editor

KEN LIVINGSTONE, Labour MP for Brent East, is London's favourite choice for the office of mayor - if the beauty contest was restricted to politicians. But if, ac-

cording to a new survey, the field was opened to non-politicians, entrepreneur Richard Branson would be the capital's favourite.

The poll suggested that three out of four Londoners back the idea of a new mayoral office but also that only a third of Londoners are "certain" to turn out in the referendum next week, compared with the general election turn-out of 70 per cent and the Scottish referendum vote of more than 60 per cent.

According to NOP, which presented a sample thousand Londoners with 11 possible contenders on behalf of the *Evening Standard*, Mr Livingstone has a substantial lead

over the next most popular politician, the transport minister and Oscar-winner Glenda Jackson. Ms Jackson is, however, *persona grata* with Labour headquarters, which intends to pull out every stop in order to exclude the former leader of the Greater London Council from the competition for the official party nomination.

If the poll is right, this tactic spells trouble for Labour, with 74 per cent of the sample expressing resentment at any attempt to block the salamander-fancying MP. Only 16 per cent would approve of the ban. Some 55 per cent said they would vote for Mr Livingstone, against 47 per cent for Ms

Jackson. MP for Hampstead and Highgate. Respectable but lesser scores were registered by other London Labour MPs, including the Culture Secretary Chris Smith, at 34 per cent and Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, at 30 per cent. *Independent* columnist and broadcaster Trevor Phillips - a Labour supporter - received 29 per cent.

Mr Branson, however, despite not having declared his hand, gets support of 66 per cent. Bad news, however, lurks in the poll for the Tory who has most enthusiastically promoted himself for the job - novelist and former party deputy chairman Lord (Jeffrey) Archer. Fifty-three per

cent said they would "definitely" not vote for him and a further 10 per cent said they would "probably" take the same view.

Another Tory, the former party chairman and Hong Kong governor Chris Patten won 49 per cent approval. Mr Patten, who is on the board of *Independent Newspapers* (UK), owner of *The Independent*, has however said he has no intention of standing.

The poll confirms Labour's high standing with 55 per cent saying that if they voted for a mayor 55 per cent would back Labour, 21 per cent the Tories, 8 per cent the Liberal Democrats, 12 per cent opted for an independent candidate.

TORIES MAY TAKE OVER WEMBLEY FOR MAYORAL MEETING

THE Tory Party may hold a mass meeting of its London members at Wembley Stadium to decide who will represent it in the contest for the capital's mayor, writes David Walker.

In a style reminiscent of open-air trade-union meetings of old, 70,000 London Tories may be asked to raise their hands in the rain in order to select candidates from a shortlist drawn up by Conservative Central Office after consultation with local associations.

Sir Norman Fowler, the Tory spokesman on local government, will today announce that a mass rally at the stadium is an option - knowing that this would seal a march on Labour, who are dithering mightily over how to select their candidate. Labour headquarters wants a tightly controlled selection procedure, in order to secure the exclusion of Ken Livingstone, former leader of the Greater London Council.

An opinion poll published yesterday by the *Evening Standard* however indicates very strong support for transport minister Glenda Jackson, despite her not having declared her hand. Being an Oscar-winning actress has not harmed Ms Jackson's name recognition.

William Hague, the Tory leader, is thought to be keen to associate himself with an exercise in direct democracy, though the Conservative Party board of management, headed by Lord Parkinson, is concerned to ensure that party mem-

bers are allowed to record their choices privately. One idea is for gigantic ballot boxes to be placed strategically around the stadium.

A Tory party spokeswoman said yesterday that various options were being considered but that the party was anxious to ensure its choice was plural. "We want a healthy list", she said - not just the two names that have surfaced so far, those of millionaire novelist Lord (Jeffrey) Archer and former transport minister Steven Norris.

Worries over women for Wales

By Tony Heath

THE Labour Party's efforts to achieve gender balance among candidates for next year's Welsh Assembly elections remained unresolved yesterday after a lengthy meeting of the party's Welsh executive committee in Cardiff.

The meeting backed the principle of twinning the 40 Welsh constituencies into 20 pairs to produce equal numbers of men and women candidates. However, the committee decided to reconvene on 7 May to consider a counter-proposal under which each constituency would choose between a man and a woman. It was also recog-

nised that the twinning scheme needed further examination.

A decision will be taken at the party's annual Welsh conference in Swansea on 15 May.

Terry Thomas, the executive's chairman, denied that there had been further delay following a lengthy period of consultation. "We want to examine twinning in greater detail and look at an alternative," he said.

The meeting was reportedly exercised by the remarks of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine, who told Welsh MPs last week: "In my opinion twinning is unlawful."

Mr Thomas said after last night's meeting: "The Labour Party has had legal opinion.

What ever system we adopt could be open to legal challenge."

The continuing uncertainty over the best way of achieving gender balance in Wales has implications for the Scottish party, where the process appears to have gone more smoothly.

The 40 local parties are said to be evenly split over twinning. At a meeting of Welsh Labour MPs at Westminster earlier this month there was an 11-10 vote in favour of twinning.

Ann Clwyd, MP for the Cynon Valley and one of the leaders in the "Twin to Win" campaign, said that Wales' macho political culture had to be reversed. "There are only four women MPs in Wales against 36



Ann Clwyd: Macho culture has to be reversed

men and Wales has only ever returned seven women to Westminster," she said.

John Rogers of the Welsh executive said: "Everyone should bear in mind the comment of Lord Irvine who expressed the view that twinning was unlawful."



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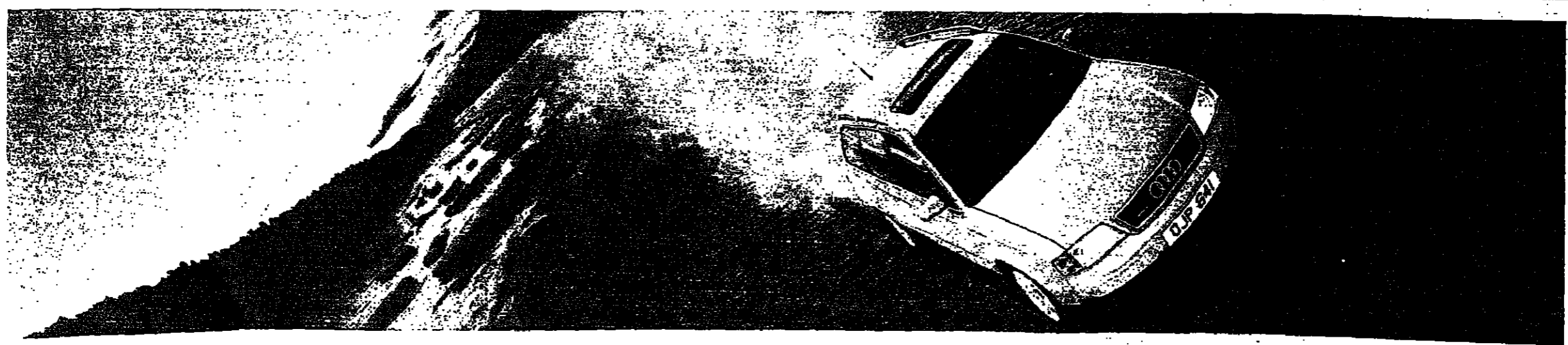
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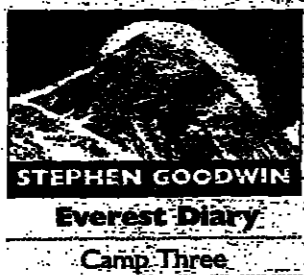
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A hard day's night for three in a tent made for two



STEPHEN GOODWIN
Everest Diary
Camp Three

It was the most physically taxing day of my life and just about the worst night's "sleep" I can remember. Camp 3, at 7,200m on the Lhotse Face below Everest's South Col, is probably as dramatic a place to pitch a tent as is imaginable. But it is hard to find anyone who speaks of it with affection.

Camp 3 is one of the essential staging posts in climbing Everest from the Nepalese south side.

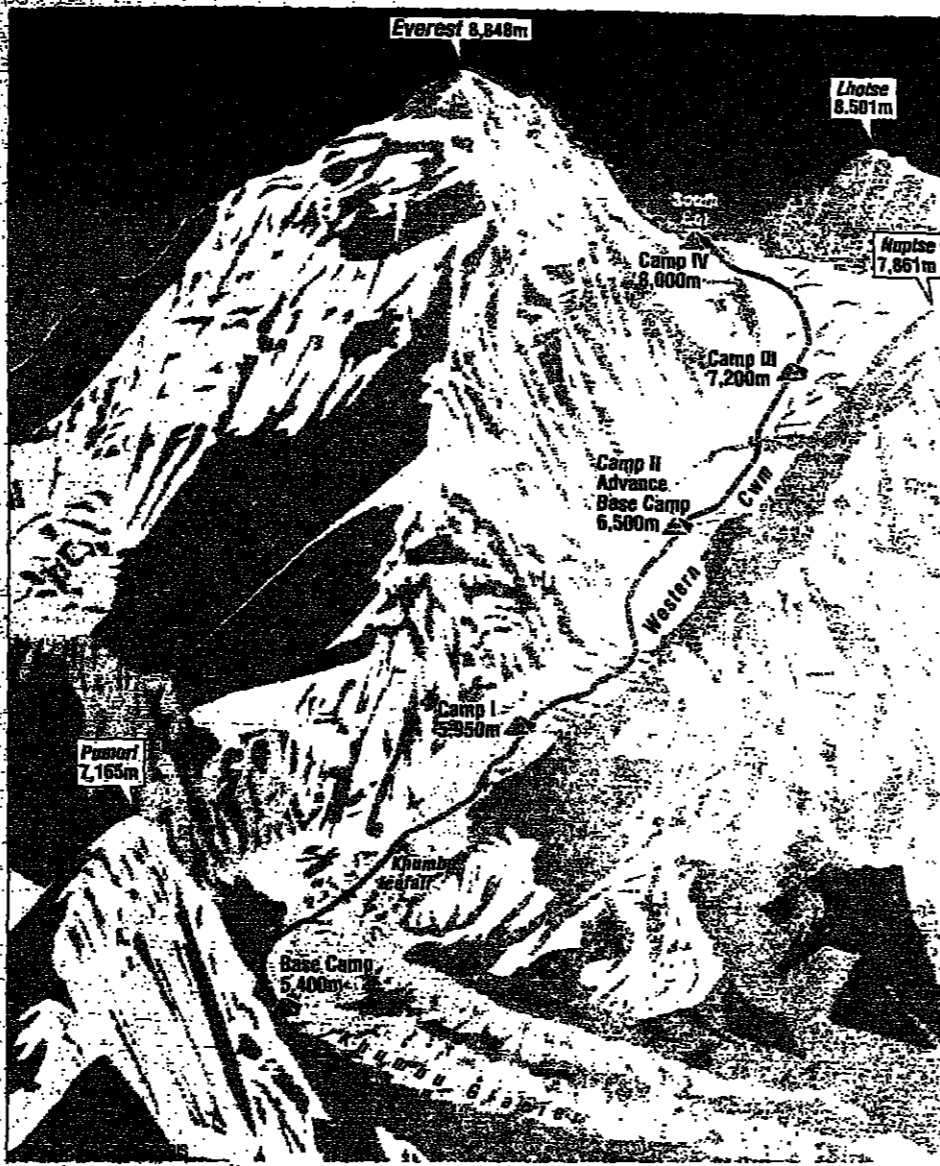
It is, for all practical purposes, the half-way house between Advanced Base Camp (ABC) near the head of the Western Cwm and the South Col - launch pad for summit attempts. After days of gazing up to a too-distant skyline where the wind whips the snow into streams it is amazing how close the South Col now looks, uncomfortably close.

The small tents of several expeditions are tucked in on glacial shelves in the centre of the face. Hacking platforms into the ice was hard work for our team of Sherpas who were here a day before us.

It seems churlish to wonder why there are only three two-person tents for eight of us or why one tent is so awkwardly positioned as to require crampons right into the porch, with not an inch of space to remove the said spikes from your boots.

Meanwhile, the floor of the Western Cwm beckons hundreds of metres below if anything is let slip. There have been deaths on the Lhotse Face and some amazing arrested slips.

So why go to Camp 3 at all until the final summit bid? It is partly for acclimatisation, to see



Ice man cometh: Pemma Sherpa, sirdar (head sherpa) of the Himalayan Kingdoms Expeditions, going through the ice fall. Photograph: Stephen Goodwin

as the angle steepened into the Lhotse Face. The sun turns this mountain amphitheatre into a furnace. Time after time I hung back on the rope gasping for air.

But an hour or so before reaching our goal the weather changed to light snow, limiting visibility so that sometimes no one else could be seen.

At this altitude it is common to have hallucinations and at that moment conditions were just right. With the angle of the Lhotse Face obscured and the snow falling so gently, I imagined I was somewhere like the North Downs, reality only returning as the shadow above turned not to a familiar bank of trees but a cliff of snow-blanketed ice.

The true picture of the camp, its location and its vast Himalayan panorama only became apparent as I wriggled out of our tiny two-person expedition tent as the sun came up. Unfortunately there had been three of us in it. I had spent the night lying head down-slope, yet surprisingly suffered next to no headache, either from altitude or a rush of blood to the head. I was also the only one able to reach the stove.

Replacing fluid by endlessly boiling water is vital at altitude. However, this meant from my cramped position I was having to reach over the stove and round the side of the tent to scoop pan fulls of snow for melting.

After a cup-a-soup and tea the three of us gave up the struggle - Dave Walsh and Irish nurse Josie Keiran were my close companions - and tried to lay still for the long night. Every knock on the tent side brought a shower of frost particles like snow over our sleeping bags.



that you will be able to function at more than 7,000m and partly for the experience of ascending on the ropes: fixed over the steep bulges of blue ice.

Given fair weather at summit time, the idea will be to go from ABC to Camp 3, as we did, then next day, in a long push, climb to the South Col, lie in a tent for a few hours (sleep would be a sweet surprise) and then set off for the top before midnight.

It is also likely that the Camp 3 climb has given our

guides Dave Walsh and Jim Williams a good idea of the respective abilities of our Himalayan Kingdoms Expeditions team members and an idea of who might make the summit, including themselves.

Dave's deputy leader, Barry Barnicott, a past Everest, is already out of the frame. He went down the valley two weeks ago to try and shake off a flu-type bug, but after starting back into the Khumbu felt too weak to continue with the expedition. Obviously we shall

miss his experience. Some of us will also miss his company in the evening over cards or - below Base Camp - a glass or two of beer.

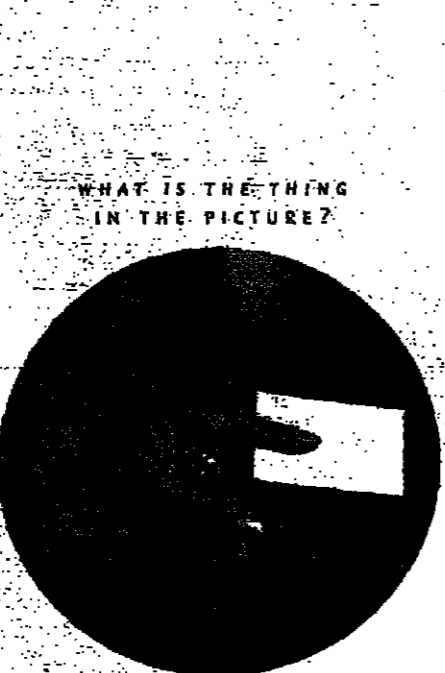
For myself, I found the climb to Camp 3 a desperately hard slog, but not so hard that I could not have started out again next morning.

We were on the go for about six hours, first across the crevassed snow slopes at the head of the cwm and then on to the fixed ropes - placed by Sherpas only a few days ago -

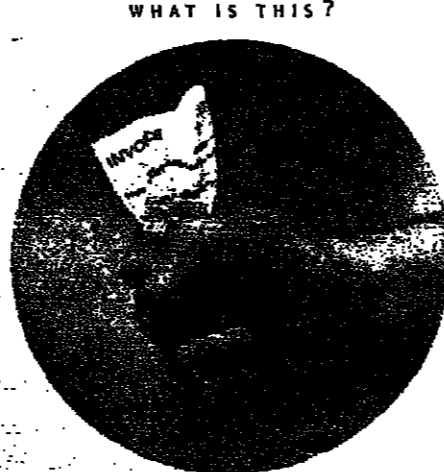
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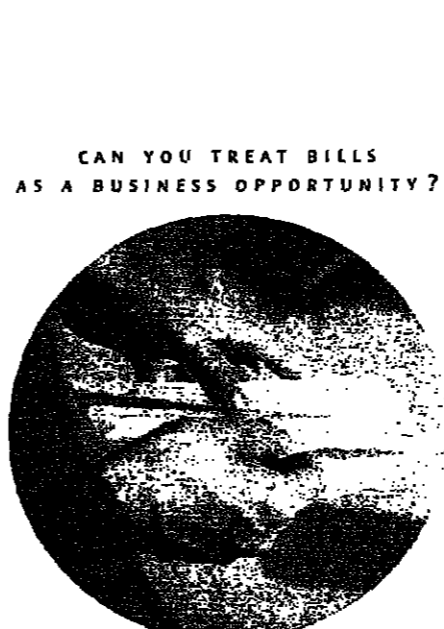
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- WHAT IS THE THING IN THE PICTURE?
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 - (b) The back of a business card.
 - (c) The back of a business card - I can use the back of my business cards to print a description of my product and pricing.



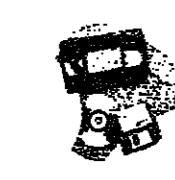
- WHAT IS THIS?
- (a) An angry customer - I'll hide till he's gone.
 - (b) An angry customer - I suppose I'd better pacify him.
 - (c) An angry customer - he's brought something to my attention, he deserves to be treated so well he'll become a loyal fan.



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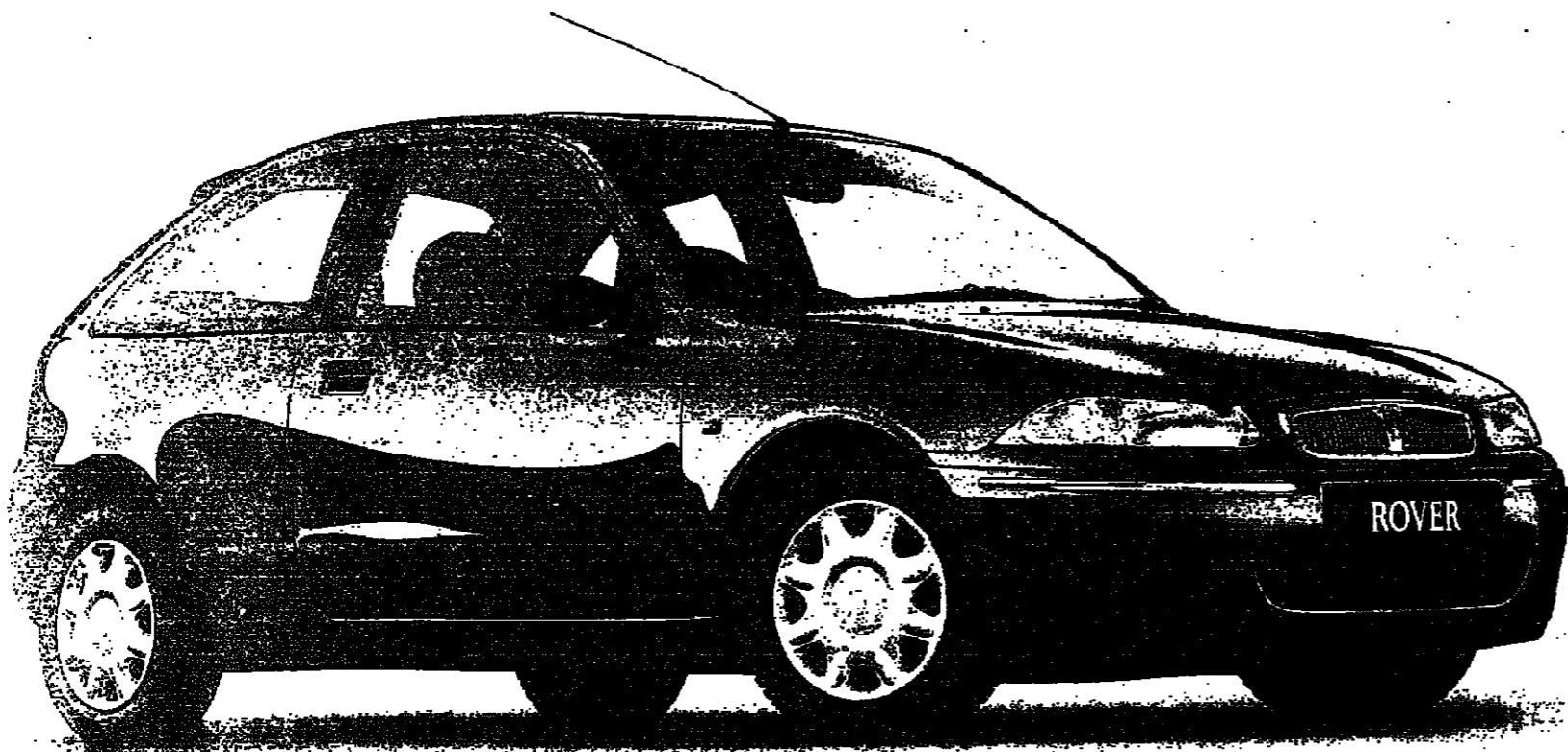
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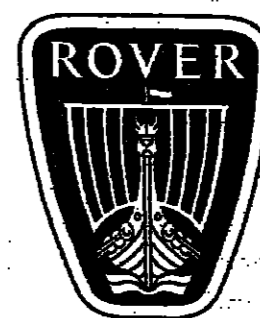
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France hurls spanner in the euro works

PRESSURE intensified on Tony Blair last night to use his chairmanship of the European Union to avert a diplomatic crisis over who runs Europe's single currency, as the two main protagonists France and The Netherlands both dismissed talk of compromise.

Rivalry between Paris and The Hague over the post of president of the future European Central Bank is set to overshadow a historic EU summit on Saturday when the 15 government leaders meet in Brussels to give their blessing to the launch of an 11-member currency merger from 1999.

Far more significant than the clash of national egos over a top job that the ECB dispute suggests, it in fact exposes the fault lines of an underlying political rift between France and Germany over how monetary union should be run. Even if the dispute is settled on Saturday or soon after, there are growing fears that it is merely a forerunner of the tensions which will inevitably emerge after Emu kicks off.

Anxiety in Germany at what is seen as a French threat to the independence of the bank erupted into the open yesterday with reports suggesting that the Bundesbank would rethink its approval for the launch of Emu if the presidency were to fall victim to a Franco-Dutch compromise, splitting the eight-year term of office between the two rivals.

French hopes have focused on a 50-50 split under which the Dutch candidate, Wim Duisenberg, would retire after the first four years to make way for

Dispute exposes wider rift over monetary union, writes Katherine Butler in Brussels

the current French central bank president, Jean Claude Trichet, nominated in a surprise challenge by the French President, Jacques Chirac.

There was speculation yesterday that faced with the threat that the Bundesbank would withdraw its endorsement for the euro, the French were preparing to back down, withdrawing Mr Trichet on the promise that he would succeed the Dutchman perhaps after six years. A spokesperson for Mr Chirac, who appears to have hoist his candidate for a very high petard, dismissed this, saying "France continues to support the candidacy of Mr Trichet".

A spokesperson for the Dutch Prime Minister who was out canvassing in his country's general election campaign, meanwhile, repeated that nothing less than a full eight-year term for Mr Duisenberg remains the Dutch position.

Mr Blair's failure to mediate effectively in the damaging dispute would draw strong criticism, even though the indications are that Britain's marginal role in Emu has also consigned the Prime Minister to the sidelines. Mr Blair, who is denied a vote in the selection of a Central Bank chief because of Britain's opt-out, spoke to his Dutch counterpart last Friday but no agreement materialised and there have been no further attempts to broker a deal according to both Mr Kok's office and the Elysée.

The new Central Bank president will head a team of 500 which from next January will co-ordinate monetary policy for the euro-zone setting interest rates and steering the new currency.

For the Germans the extent to which the Bank and its top officers are, and are seen to be, entirely independent of political interference, is crucial to the stability and credibility of the euro. The Maastricht Treaty stipulates an eight-year non-renewable term for the president specifically to protect the independence of the office.

The appointment of a figure such as Wim Duisenberg, closely linked to the tight money policies advocated by the Bundesbank and the German government, would fulfil German demands perfectly.

He represents the *quid pro quo* for Germany's reluctant agreement to admit countries whose high debt and structural economic problems could destabilise the project.

French political leaders, on the other hand, have a vision of an Emu where a tight monetary policy is offset by the political concern for jobs and growth.

For the Dutch the issue is one of national pride. Pipped at the post in a 1994 EU contest, for the presidency of the European Commission, the Dutch are furious that the same trick could be played again. This time Wim Kok's Socialist led coalition is facing elections after the Emu summit on 6 May so the room for compromise at least before that date, is slim.



Alles Cuban President Fidel Castro (left) talking to Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien yesterday at the Palace of the Revolution in Havana, where the two leaders met to sign co-operation agreements Photograph: Gary Hershorn

Outsider set to shake up Spain's socialists

By Elizabeth Heath in Madrid

SPAIN'S opposition Socialists are set for a much-needed shake-up following the unexpected victory of the outsider Josep Borrell in the party's first primary elections for a prime-ministerial candidate.

Mr Borrell, a charismatic Catalan of humble origins, delivered a kick up the backside to the party machine by trouncing the party's official candidate, Joaquin Almunia.

Mr Almunia was the designated successor of the former prime minister, Felipe Gonzalez, and looked like a safe pair of hands after he was hastily endorsed in the time-honoured bureaucratic fashion following Mr Gonzalez's sudden resignation last June.

Mr Almunia was regarded as keeping the throne warm should Mr Gonzalez, who had led the party since 1974, with 14 years as prime minister, decide to return as party leader.

Mr Gonzalez encouraged this sentiment by saying before the poll: "I'll vote for Joaquin and continue at the disposition of my party."

But last Friday, the rank-and-file members overturned all predictions for rejecting this vision, opting instead for Mr Borrell by 55 per cent, with 45 per cent voting for Mr Almunia. The astonishing result clearly

showed the extent to which the party apparatus had lost touch with its members.

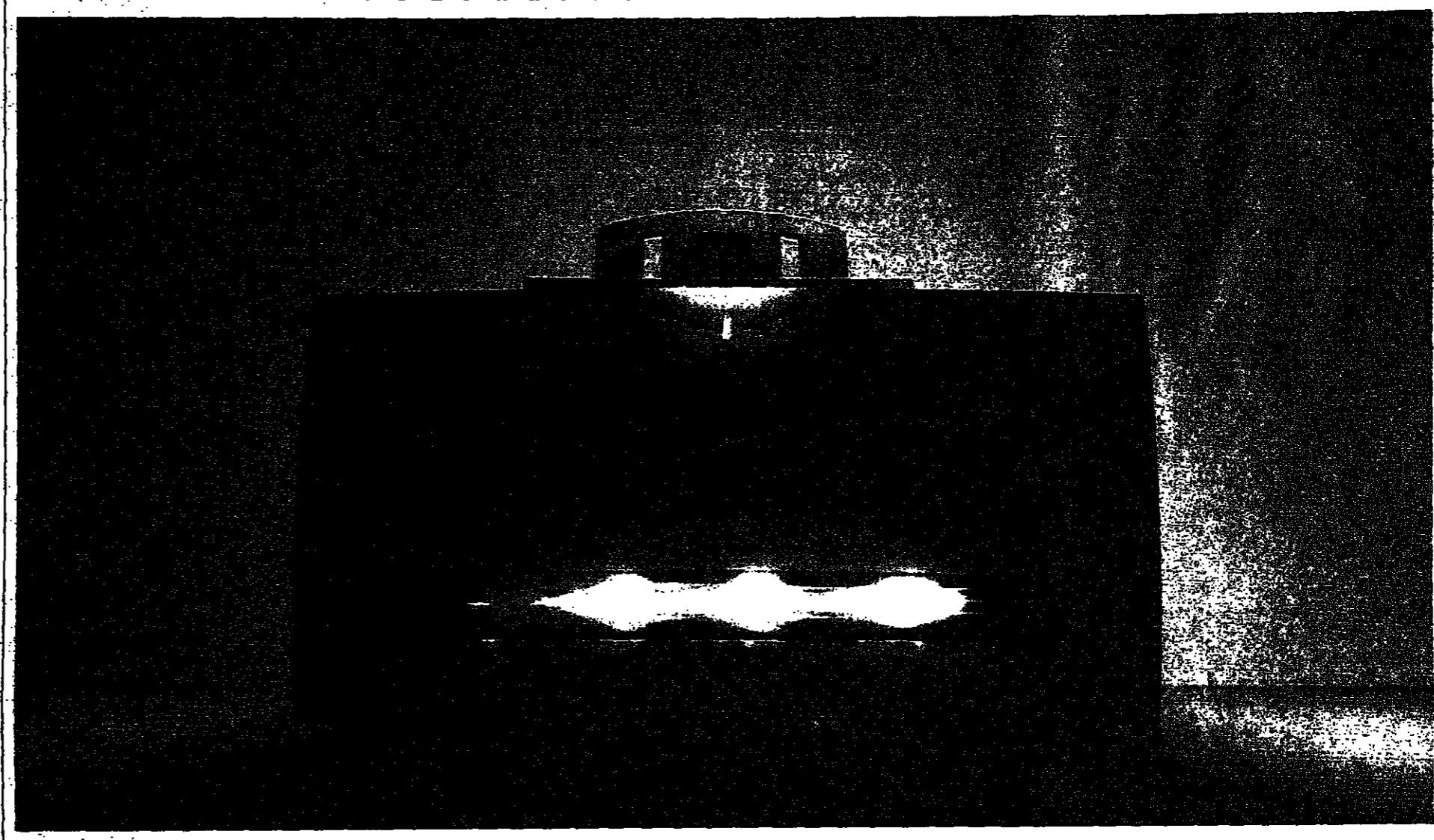
Party bosses have been urging internal reform for years, especially since they lost the elections two years ago. But members declared by their vote that those who talked of renovation actually delivered stagnation.

Overnight, the Socialists have dramatically improved their chances of victory in elections due within two years. A weekend poll predicted that were elections to be called now, Mr Borrell would be 10 points ahead of the Prime Minister, Jose Maria Aznar.

Mr Almunia, a decent but unexciting leader, offered to resign as party general secretary, though Mr Borrell, seeking to minimise internal divisions, has urged him to stay.

Political ideas were sparse throughout the contest, but Mr Borrell is expected to challenge Mr Aznar's conservative government more fiercely over social conditions and employment.

Mr Borrell has the enormous advantage of being free of any taint of involvement in undercover assassinations of suspects in the Basque separatist organisation, Eta, during Mr Gonzalez's government in the 1980s. Mr Gonzalez has been dogged by accusations of illegal state-sponsored covert operations.



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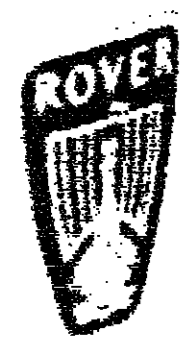
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Defeat pushes Kohl to play race card

By Imre Karacs
in Bonn

A DAY after his party's catastrophic defeat in Saxony-Anhalt, Chancellor Helmut Kohl came under pressure yesterday to borrow anti-foreigner themes from the extreme right in the coming national election campaign.

Mr Kohl's Christian Democrats lost one-third of their support in Sunday's elections to the regional assembly, seated in Magdeburg, and avoided the utter humiliation of being beaten into third place by the ex-communist PDS by the margin of 2 per cent of the votes. The German People's Union (DVU) recorded the best ever performance of an extreme right-wing party since the Second World War, capturing 12.9 per cent of the votes.

"We didn't manage to convince the voters of the massive efforts we have made to improve living standards in the region," Mr Kohl said yesterday in his first comment.

In a stormy meeting of his party executive in Bonn yesterday, Mr Kohl was forced to acknowledge blame for the debacle, and was implored to prepare a "time-table" for his retirement. With only five months to go to September's general elections, however, his party could ill afford to sack him now, and he shows no inclination of jumping.

The only option open, his dismayed troops acknowledge, is to change course. And with the centre and left fenced off by the Social De-

mocrats' challenger, Gerhard Schröder, there is nowhere to seek new votes but on the extreme right.

Senior east German politicians, who have seen these ultras eat into the Christian Democrat camp, were therefore advising him to make the necessary adjustment in campaign rhetoric. The loudest instructions for a right turn are coming - predictably - from the Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union. Their leader, Theo Waigel, left no doubt what Mr Kohl should do: "Aside from jobs, [the CDU] needs to put more stress on internal security, immigration and crime policies," Mr Waigel said. His own party, Mr Waigel pointed out, "has been doing this for some time already and we feel that course is justified by the result in Saxony-Anhalt".

One of Mr Waigel's Bavarian colleagues, Erwin Huber, went further: "We must make it clear it is our job to keep on defending national interests in Europe. This awareness of national issues must, perhaps, be put even more in the foreground."

"We have no need to learn any lessons in that area," Mr Kohl retorted yesterday. The Chancellor and his Bavarian comrades have been fighting a bitter war of words over election strategy. The rift in the governing coalition doubtless contributed to the CDU's dismal showing on Sunday, but right-wingers clearly do not intend to drop the matter.

The CDU-CSU block are eight points behind the Social Democrats in the national polls, and at this rate are heading for defeat. The temptation to play the foreigner card may be too hard to resist. Such a campaign is not alien to Chancellor Kohl. At a rally in Magdeburg last week, he devoted a chunk of his speech to law and order and spoke about foreigners in the context of crime. "Foreigners are guests in our country," he said, adding that they should respect Germany's laws.

As the main parties pondered their response to the resurgence of right-wing extremism, the leader of the country's Jewish community called on them to act now. "If the democratic parties leave things as they are what could emerge in the next two, three or five years could be very dangerous," Ignatz Bubis said.



Worrying times: Chancellor Helmut Kohl yesterday as his Christian Democrats debated their defeat in Sunday's elections in Saxony-Anhalt Photograph: Martin Gerten/EPA

Designer Nazism storms into poll position

By Imre Karacs

THE DVU's breakthrough in Saxony-Anhalt opens a new phase in the battle for the disaffected hearts and minds of eastern Germany. For years, neo-Nazi gangs have ruled the streets in the region's devastated towns and dehumanising estates, but, until now, not one of their members had gained entry to any of the Land parliaments. When it came to election day, their potential voters always stayed at home.

On Sunday, these seething masses were roused from their torpor and

the majority of first-time voters threw their support behind the DVU.

"A victory for democracy," exclaimed the leader of the "phantom party", Gerhard Frey, who submitted no candidates, merely the name of his creation, to the electorate. To be precise, the victory owed all to Mr Frey's strategy of storming the bastions of democracy by democratic means.

Baseball bats are out. Unlike other neo-Nazi organisations, such as the NPD, which go in for black uniforms and bombastic rallies, the DVU confines itself to Mr Frey's suburban Munich villa. His empire is the

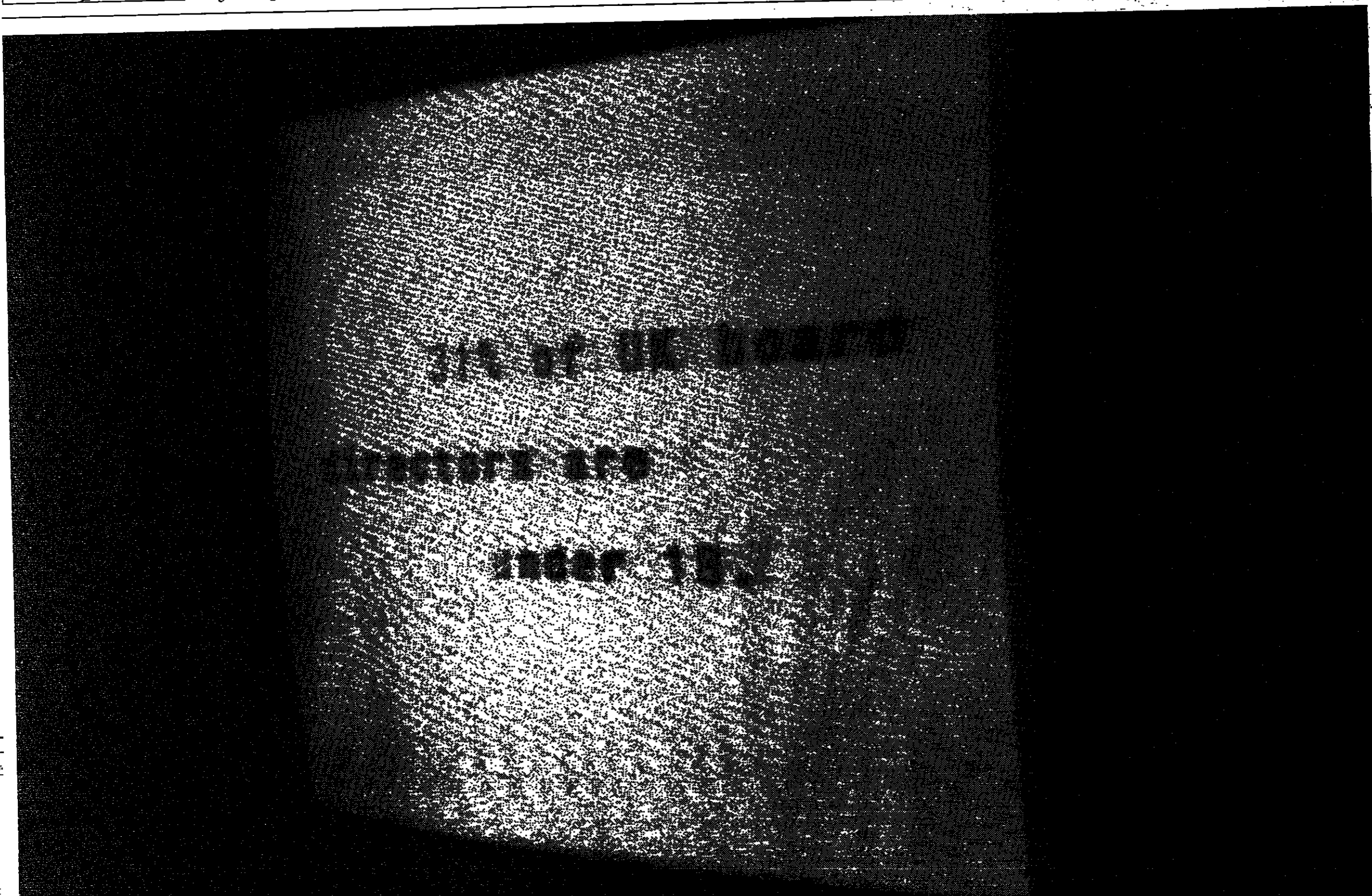
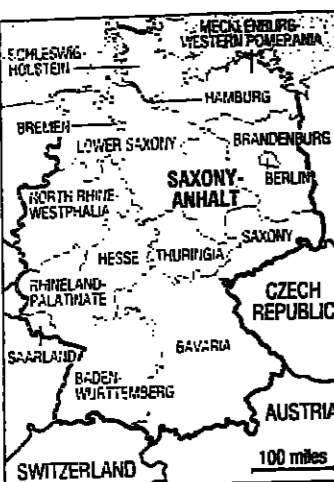
world of newspapers, war videos and the Internet. His target audience comprises not only the young desperadoes spoiling for a fight, but their mothers and fathers, too. The 65-year-old publisher is the respectable face of right-wing extremism; his creed is designer Nazism.

The newspapers he publishes in Munich do not shirk from anti-Semitic slurs, revisionism and rabid xenophobia. But the election leaflets he mailed last week kept the message simple. He was not proposing to get anybody beaten up, merely to have "criminal foreigners" thrown out.

"The DVU says the things we say," enthused a skinhead on the Olvenstedt estate in Magdeburg last week. What they say on the estates is that foreigners, who account for less than 2 per cent of the region's population, are responsible for soaring crime and 23 per cent unemployment.

The DVU has few members - 16,000 throughout Germany and less than 100 in Saxony-Anhalt - but it has notched up some successes. For a time, the party was represented in the parliament of the city-state of Bremen, and last autumn it fell 200 votes short of repeating the feat in Hamburg.

Sunday's triumph will serve as a springboard for Mr Frey, though he might find it difficult to score above the necessary 5 per cent in states where other extreme-right-wing parties can split the racist vote. But the DVU leader has almost unlimited resources. Having inherited a chain of department stores from his brother, he is believed to be worth about DM500m (£167m). Buying 16 seats in the Saxony-Anhalt parliament cost him a mere DM3m, and about a third of that will be reimbursed by the taxpayer. Democracy, like almost everything else in Germany, is subsidised.



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Birthday boy Saddam flexes Iraq's muscles

By Patrick Cockburn
in Baghdad

IT IS the mother of birthday cakes. It is on display in the lobby of the al-Rashid hotel in central Baghdad and the message above it reads: "Happy Birthday To Our Beloved President Leader Saddam Hussein (God Bless Him)." Coloured lights illuminate the streets of the capital and celebrations have started in every town in Iraq.

The most impressive event so far has been a mass wedding of 270 couples at the Hunting Club in the fashionable al-Mansour district, site of many embassies, not far from the old Baghdad race course. Red buses brought about 2,000 relatives to the reception and the concert afterwards, at which Iraqi singers performed on a stage decorated with illuminated hearts. Hotel rooms for the happy couples are paid for by the government.

It was 61 years ago today that Saddam Hussein was born in a village outside Tikrit, a nondescript town on the Tigris north of Baghdad. His portrait in different guises is on every street in the country and over the last week sign painters have been touching them up. Outside Karbala, the holy city in western Iraq, a painter was last week carefully repainting the gold thread in the robe of Saddam Hussein dressed as a sheik.

The birthday coincides with

another more ominous ritual. The UN Security Council met yesterday to discuss the six-monthly report from the UN Special Commission on the destruction of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them. Richard Butler, chairman of the Special Commission, has already reported that he has made no progress. Iraqi leaders have been underlining the gloomy prospects for the lifting of sanctions all week. "So long as the Security Council is controlled by America and so long as the [UN] Special Commission is formed by America," said Tariq Aziz, the deputy prime minister, "the possibility that the embargo will be lifted from Iraq and also Libya and others is weak." He denounced Mr Butler as an American agent.

Iraq has threatened unspecified measures if sanctions are renewed, but has limited military, political or diplomatic options. "They do not have much leeway," said a diplomat in Baghdad. "They seem convinced the best chance of getting sanctions lifted is by co-operating fully with the UN." He said a fresh crisis, if there is to be one, is more likely after the next six-monthly review in October.

Iraq accuses the UN Special Commission of adopting a procedure under which the embargo will never be lifted. "If they find something," said one

Iraqi official, "they will condemn us. But if they fail to find evidence that we have weapons of mass destruction, they say they have made no progress in discovering what weapons we have. We cannot win."

The Iraqi leadership sounds more pessimistic than it did two months ago, when on 23 February it signed an agreement with Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General. At the time it appeared to have focused attention on the suffering caused by sanctions, weakened the US-led Gulf war alliance and enhanced the role of the UN. Now, Iraqi leaders give the impression they believe they are little nearer ending sanctions.

At the time of the agreement with Mr Annan Iraq must have known there was no chance of even partially lifting sanctions until October. It may be that the

increasingly militant rhetoric is geared to keeping international attention focused on Iraq, but not to provoking a renewed confrontation at this time.

The main political development in Iraq since the February crisis has been the increased visibility and confidence of Saddam Hussein. The evidence is less in his birthday celebrations than prolonged appearances in public. This is in sharp contrast to his disappearance from public view for long periods over the last eight years.

Ten days ago he reviewed the volunteer army for five hours in Baghdad. He even shook hands with foreign ambassadors, most of whom had never seen him (they present their credentials to his vice-president). His public appearances indicate greater confidence in his personal security and political future.



Horsemen of the Apocalypse: Saddam and his sons immortalised in a ceramic mural

Photograph: AFP

UN poised to renew sanctions on Baghdad

IGNORING fresh threats from Baghdad that it might once more suspend all co-operation with United Nations weapons inspectors, the Security Council was on course last night to renew for another six months the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq in the wake of its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, writes David Usher in New York.

The council appeared to have little choice but to renew the sanctions on the basis of a new report from Richard Butler, the diplomat in charge of weapons inspections in Iraq. He concluded that in the past six months there had been "virtually no progress" in determining Iraq's compliance with the UN resolutions that call on it to end all its programmes in nuclear, ballistic, chemical and biological weapons.

An olive branch may be offered in the form of some kind of formal recognition of head-

way made in the nuclear area. Russia, the most heedful of Iraq's plight among the five permanent Security Council members, last week proposed a resolution that would downgrade inspections of Iraq's nuclear capabilities to a less aggressive regime of monitoring.

A decision to let the sanctions roll on for another half-year is certain to reignite tensions between Iraq and the international community. Iraq's anger was voiced in Baghdad yesterday by the Iraqi presidential adviser, General Amer Saadi, who said future relations with the UN inspectors would be "determined in the light of the results of the Security Council debate". The general added: Diplomats said the Russian proposal for a resolution on nuclear monitoring was unlikely to get sufficient support in the council, as the United States is uneasy about giving ground to Baghdad.

Wartime Korean sex slaves win compensation battle

HUMAN RIGHTS groups hailed a landmark Japanese court ruling that Tokyo should pay compensation to three South Korean women forced to provide sex to Japanese soldiers in the Second World War. The Yamaguchi District Court in southern Japan ordered the Japanese government to pay 300,000 yen (£1,420) to each of the three plaintiffs. Up to now, the Japanese government has refused to pay compensation to any of the women.

— Reuters, Tokyo

Clashes in Kosovo

THE YUGOSLAV army clashed with Albanians and reported killing three insurgents in the southern province of Kosovo, Albanian reports said up to 12 died. The Serbian government said they were trying to smuggle weapons into Kosovo from Albania. Serb sources also reported that two policemen were wounded, one seriously, in an ambush overnight to the southwest of Pristina. About 150 people have been killed in Kosovo since late February, when Serb security forces first launched a sweep aimed at wiping out Albanian separatists.

— AP, Pristina

Chinese sow seeds of doubt

CHINA, which invented the magnetic compass, gunpowder and the printing press, is claiming another world first — the tulip. Most people believe it was European, but evidence uncovered by Chinese researchers shows it originated in China, Xinhua news agency said. Experts 20 varieties of tulips in the Qinghai-Tibetan plateau in western China and in the north-western region of Xinjiang, Xinhua said. That was proof China was the birthplace of the flower.

— Reuters, Peking

Bishop murdered

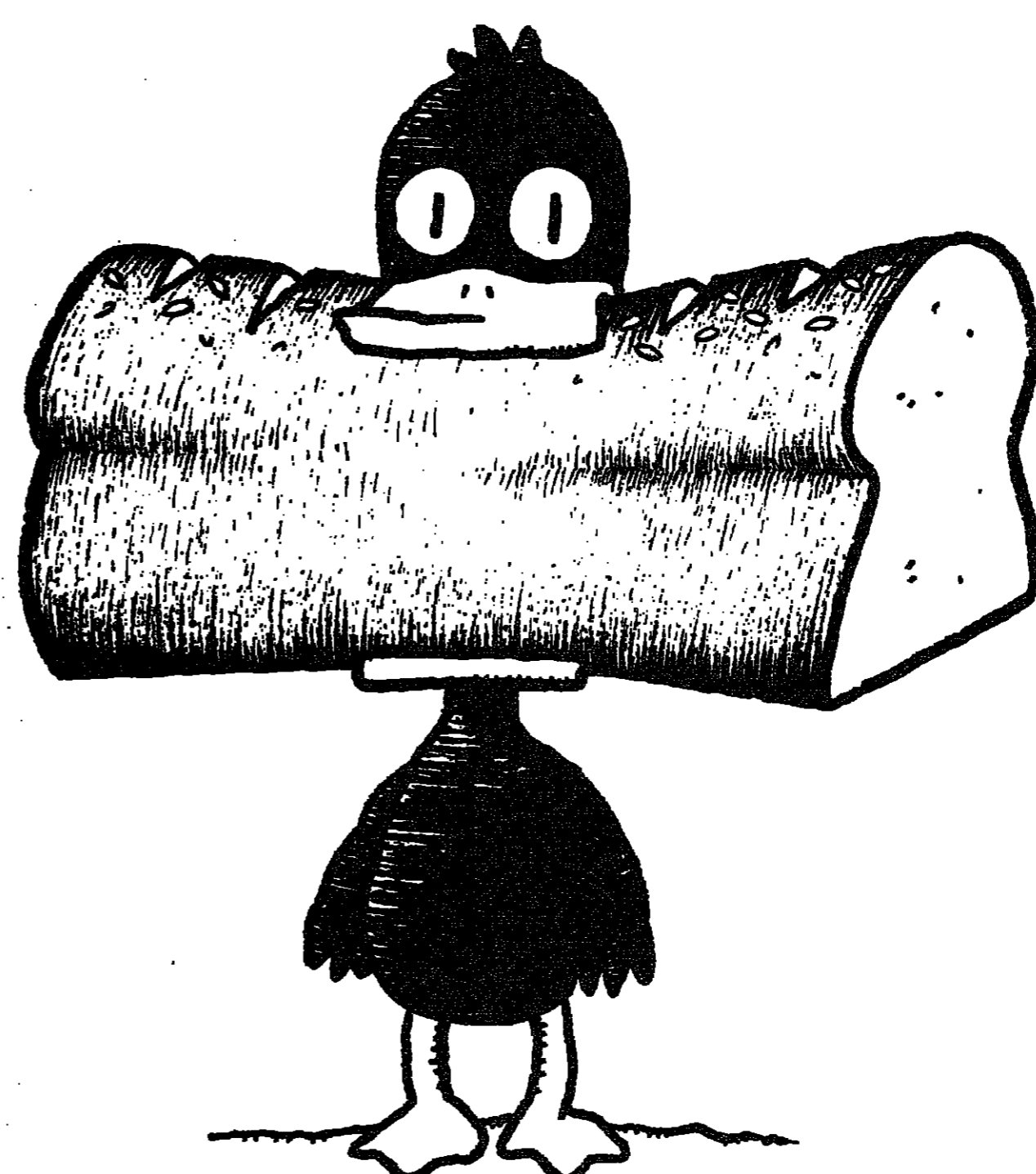

A GUATEMALAN bishop who was a leading human-rights activist has been murdered, the Vatican said. Juan Gerardi Conedera, Guatemala native, who was 75, had spoken out frequently for democracy and human rights.

— AP, Rome

Lebed heading for poll win

ALEXANDER LEBED was on course to become governor of the Krasnoyarsk region of Siberia and gain a power-base to stand for president of Russia. Unofficial results from Sunday's election in the powerful industrial region gave him 45 per cent of the vote, nearly 10 percentage points more than his nearest rival, Valery Zubov.

— Reuters, Krasnoyarsk



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Tibetan protest ends in flames

By Peter Popham
in New Delhi

WITH burns to 90 per cent of his body, 60-year-old Thupten Ngodup is not expected to live much longer. But he is conscious in his hospital bed in Delhi where he was taken yesterday morning, and according to a friend who visited him he is sitting in bed reciting over and over again a sort of mantra. May all beings be happy. Long live the Dalai Lama. May Tibet be free.

Thupten Ngodup poured petrol over himself and set it alight yesterday morning at Jantar Mantar, the protest camp in central Delhi, where Tibetan exiles on hunger strike were entering the 49th day of their fast. At 6am, large numbers of police surrounded the camp, some in paramilitary uniforms and carrying breathing

equipment. They barged their way through 40 Tibetan sympathisers who had been keeping a vigil at the site and burst into the tent where the three remaining hunger strikers (three others had been arrested on Sunday) were asleep. As they carried them out to a waiting ambulance, Mr Ngodup sat down outside the tent and set himself on fire. Tibetans and foreign supporters tried to stifle the flames but he was in a critical condition when he reached hospital.

Tseten Norbu, president of the Tibetan Youth Congress, organisers of the fast, said: "We were expecting something to happen today, but what the police did this morning was totally barbaric."

Last week police visited the camp and warned the organisers that suicide is illegal under Indian law. With the fast entering its eighth week, they had been taking nothing but lemon-flavoured water - it was likely that some of the hunger-strikers would soon be in a serious condition. But the political factor that is assumed to have dictated the aggressiveness of the police action is that on Sunday the head of China's armed forces, General Fu Quanyou, arrived in Delhi for a seven-day visit. It was the first ever visit to India by China's supreme military commander.

The Tibetan Youth Congress had assured the Indian authorities that they would do nothing to embarrass India over the general's visit, but the mere existence of the protest was an embarrassment. The police decided to close it down, but provoked something far worse.

The relationship between India and China, the two Asian behemoths, is chronically distrustful. Although they signed an agreement on border peace seven years ago, a final agreement is as far away as ever and the border region in the Himalayas is heavily reinforced on both sides. The Indian government's abrasive new defence

minister, George Fernandes, recently infuriated Peking by criticising the alleged building by China of a hell-pad in the disputed area.

Political activity by Tibetan exiles has been tolerated by India ever since China's takeover of Tibet. But tolerance has never developed into political support. And as Tseten Norbu said yesterday, following his compatriot's self-immolation, "We found this morning that we really have no political allies."

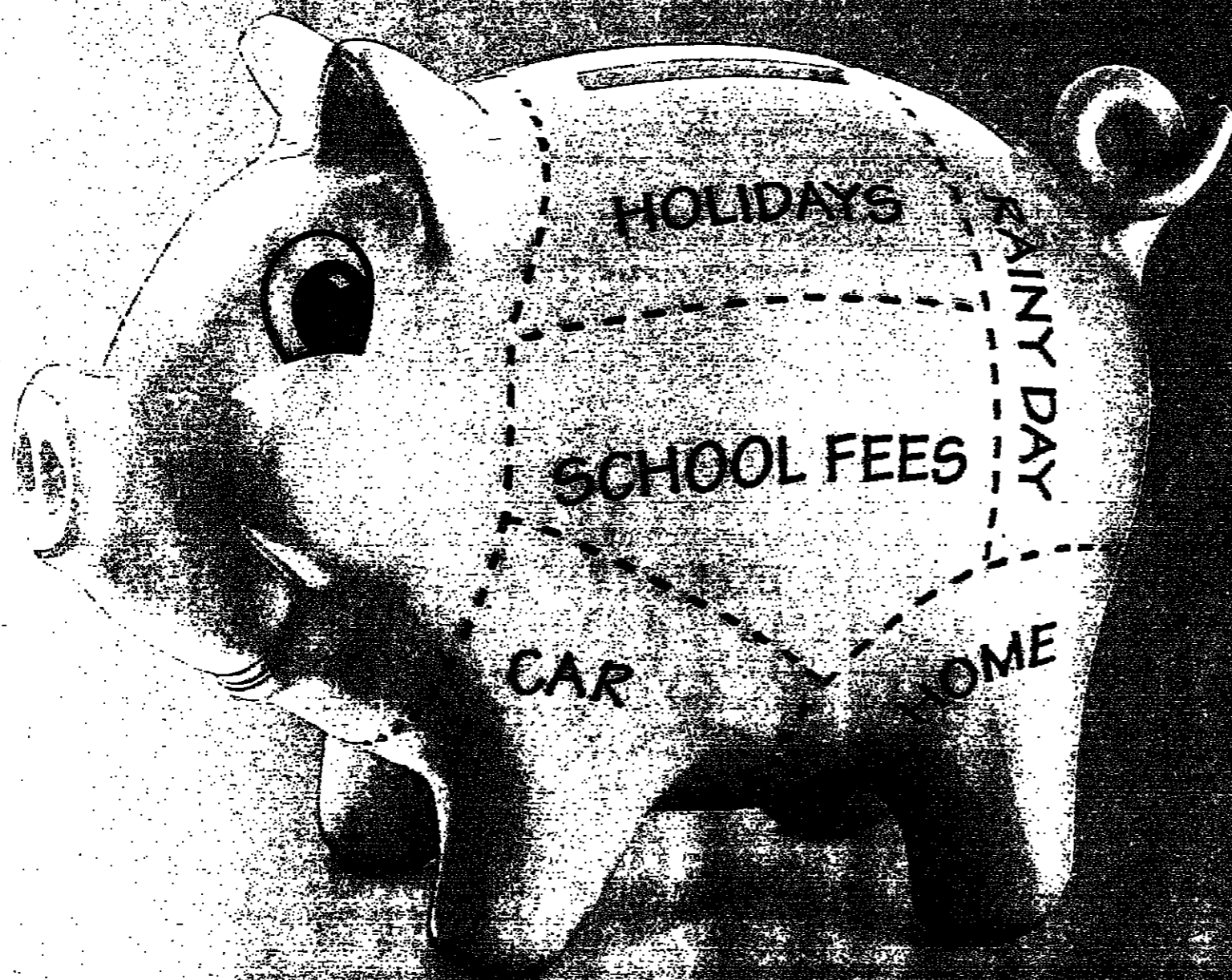
The Tibetans have made three demands of the United Nations: to resume debate on Tibet, to appoint a special rapporteur to investigate the human rights situation, and to appoint a special envoy to promote a peaceful settlement. "There have been three statements by UN officials, two by human rights commissioner, Mary Robinson and one by Kofi Annan," Mr Tseten said, "but they did not address any of our three demands."

For 40 years, under the guidance of the Dalai Lama, the Tibetans' struggle has been resolutely pacific, but now the patience of the Tibetan youth is wearing thin. "We in the Tibetan Youth Congress have a very clear policy," Mr Tseten said. "We can pursue violent as well as non-violent means, but with due and high regard to the Dalai Lama's leadership, we have until today committed no violent acts."

With Mr Thupten's self-immolation, the unscheduled act of one individual, that may be about to change in the most horrific way. "We found we have to pay the price in flesh and blood. That is what we have to do now. Without paying the price we don't get independence," Mr Tseten said.

A new batch of six hunger-strikers began their fast yesterday, replacing those taken away by the police. If the police try to nip the new protest in the bud, India, along with the rest of the world, should brace itself for more horrifying scenes.

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Health scares take food off HK menus

By Stephen Vines
in Hong Kong

COME to Hong Kong, "one of the world's great culinary centres", the tourist promotion literature says. So it is. But when visitors get here, they will find all manner of food is disappearing from the menu.

The former British colony has been hit by an unusual number of food scares which have taken many items off local menus in quiet succession. First came the scare about fresh green vegetables from across the border in China proper. Then all poultry was removed. Then shellfish, followed by all fish and now, more recently, beef.

"I hope you don't use the words 'food scare'," said Pauline Ling, spokeswoman for the health department, as she tried valiantly to convince me that the problems with various foods were well under control or common in other countries too.

There is no disguising the state of unease about the food situation. The most dramatic scare came early this year with the discovery of a fatal flu virus which spread from chickens to people. Even though it remains unclear whether the virus can be contracted from eating infected birds, poultry was soon pulled off the menu. To calm people's fears and remove the source of the problem the Hong Kong government ordered the slaughter of all poultry in the territory.

Fresh chicken and duck are now back on the menu, just as beef sales slumped by half following news last week that a deadly *E. coli* bacteria had been found in beef coming from a local abattoir.

Oh well, what about something lighter, say shellfish?

Unfortunately that's off the menu too because of fears that a toxic algae may lurk in shellfish caught in local waters, which have been suffering from the "red tide" phenomenon. The red tide is a build up of algae which suffocate fish without necessarily poisoning the fish altogether whereas in shellfish, notorious for harbouring all sorts of diseases, the toxins linger and can attack the spinal nerve system.

This is a great pity because there are few more refreshing dishes than stir-fried shellfish cooked Cantonese style. One of the most popular dishes is cockles. They were taken off the menu earlier in the year following a cholera scare.

Vegetarians cannot smirk about the woes of their fellow diners. Earlier in the year, hospitals and clinics treated a large number of patients with food poisoning caught from eating succulent-looking green vegetables. They were drenched in pesticide by Chinese farmers trying to make their vegetables grow faster.

Why is Hong Kong so prone to food scares? It is precisely why Hong Kong is famous for its food. The best Chinese food is ultra-fresh. Fish, shellfish and chickens are usually alive moments before they are plunged into the pot. Vegetables are delivered daily and do not linger in cold storage.

Mrs Ling says this creates "a unique system of selling food", with a large amount of live animals and fish in markets. It also creates problems of hygiene. The safe alternative is dead, frozen food, but no self-respecting Chinese cook will have anything to do with food from a deep freeze. It may be squeaky clean but they consider it tasteless.

protest
ames

Cooking up a TV winner

Bazal Productions has become one of the most powerful forces on television. Tim Hulze discovers its secret recipe

"THERE'S nothing wrong with something that's pure entertainment," says Peter Bazalgette. "It's not a sin to have pleasure in your life. But you'd think in this country very often that it is."

Bazalgette is the high priest of lifestyle - the man responsible for a plethora of lightweight lifestyle TV programmes, such as *Changing Rooms*, *Ready Steady Cook* and *Can't Cook Won't Cook*, which now dominate the schedules, and have encouraged a British obsession with food and decor. Those words were his response to my suggestion that the bulk of his output might be collectively described as "entertaining crap". Others have said much worse things about his programmes, in particular the London *Evening Standard's* television reviewer Victor Lewis Smith, who wrote recently: "It's curious that the Bazalgette family first achieved prominence through their sterling work with drains and sewage, and fitting that Peter is keeping the family connection in place."

Whatever Bazalgette's programmes are, they're certainly popular. Last year, *Changing Rooms* was watched by more people than any other programme on BBC2. Transferred to BBC1 for its latest series which has just ended, it regularly pulled in more than 10 million viewers, giving it a prime-time audience share of more than 40 per cent. *Celebrity Ready Steady Cook*, another Bazalgette production on BBC1, attracts around six-and-a-half million viewers. In the modern, ratings-driven world of British TV, figures like these are not to be sniffed at. Nor are the spin-offs, from books and crockery to sales of programme concepts around the globe. So it's not surprising he laughs off the criticism of his detractors.

"I'm astounded that some of the critics of the programmes waste so much energy, time and hot air on what are essentially instant little entertainments. 'Smooth' is one of the words which tend to crop up when you mention the name of Bazalgette in TV circles. 'Operator' is the other one. Behind the affable, nonchalant exterior there lies a shrewd business

brain which has made him, at 44, one of the most important and influential figures in today's television industry, by recognising viewers' insatiable appetite for cheap, bland shows. Broadcast magazine called him "the acknowledged king of low-cost, high-volume production". Others go further - "There's no person who's had more impact on television in the Nineties than he has," says Nicholas Fraser, media commentator and editor of the BBC's *Storyville* documentary series. "The whole of television is full of lifestyle programmes nowadays and that is in large part due to Peter Bazalgette."

Bazalgette, known to all and sundry simply as "Baz", began as a news trainee at the BBC, but he quickly decided that news was "dull", so he got himself a job as a researcher on *That's Life*, which was much more up his street. "The truth is that Esther Rantzen was a formative influence on the programmes that we now produce," says Bazalgette, citing *That's Life's* "heady mixture" of practical consumer information and human interest stories. These are two of the three elements which are now considered essential in a Bazalgette production. The final element was to be provided by his second formative influence, but that was to come much later.

He spent the Eighties as a freelance producer, his only notable success being to turn the BBC's *Food & Drink* programme into the success it remains to this day. By the end of the decade he had his own company, Bazal Productions, a modest operation which he describes as "me and three typewriters in an office in North Kensington". However, as the auction for the ITV franchises approached, modest operations like Bazal Productions suddenly became very desirable properties for big potential bidders looking to add some production cred to their portfolios. So eight years ago, Bazal Productions was bought by Broadcast Communications, the television wing of the Guardian Media Group. By 1996, the company, now called Bazal, had a turnover of around £22m.

Baz's success is due in large



Menu master: Peter Bazalgette (below) changed the face of lifestyle programming with *Ready Steady Cook*, presented by Fern Britton (above)



Nicola Kurtz

BAZAL'S EMPIRE

Food and Drink (BBC2); *Changing Rooms* (BBC2/BBC1); *Ready Steady Cook* (BBC2); *Celebrity Ready Steady Cook* (BBC1); *Ainsley's Meals in Minutes* (BBC2); *Can't Cook, Won't Cook* (BBC1); *Going, Going, Gone* (BBC2); *Ground Force* (BBC2); *Antonio Carluccio's Italian Feast* (BBC2); *Antonio Carluccio's Southern Italian Feast* (BBC2); *Change That* (BBC1); *Househunters* (ITV); *Pet Rescue* (Channel 4); *Great House Game* (Channel 5); *Great Garden Game* (Channel 5); *Off Your Trolley* (BBC2); *Absolutely Animals* (Channel 4); *3,000 Mile Garden* (Channel 4); *Springs, Bows and Bellows* (BBC2); *Grass Roots* (ITV); *Lion Country* (BBC1); *Metroland* (ITV); *The Sunday Programme* (ITV)

part to his second formative influence - Channel 4 boss Michael Jackson, who approached him five years ago when he was controller of BBC2 to fill a hole in his schedule with an entertaining food programme. Bazalgette and his creative team sat down and brainstormed their way to *Ready Steady Cook*, in which two teams composed of a

celebrity chef and a member of the public compete to concoct a dish in twenty minutes using a £5 bag of shopping. The programme contained practical information and human interest, but crucially it also contained a third element - challenge and competition. The cocktail wasn't new, but Bazalgette was the first to give it a name. "About three months

into *Ready Steady Cook*, I picked it up and looked at it and thought, 'What's this? Oh, it's a leisure-based gameshow, we should do more of these,'" he says. And more of them he did: *Can't Cook, Won't Cook*, in which a chef attempts to give guidance to a couple of culinary duffers. *Going, Going, Gone*, which had an antiques theme. *Changing Rooms*, again from a

Michael Jackson suggestion, in which two couples redecorate each other's homes. And most recently *Ground Force*, in which Alan Titchmarsh and his team transform the garden of an unsuspecting homeowner.

Up until about five years ago, lifestyle programmes such as these would have been firmly moored in the backwaters of the daytime schedules, but to-

day they're prime-time entertainments. Lifestyle is booming on our screens, and Bazalgette thinks he knows why.

"At the risk of sounding pretentious when I say this, we're in a secular age, a post-religious age really," he says. "And one of the ways we seem to define ourselves is by our consumer behaviour. In our spare time we spend money on things we're interested in, whether it's cars, food or doing our house up. And those things aren't just what we spend our money on, it's who we are."

"I've never made a show as popular as *Changing Rooms* before," he muses. "I've made lots of shows that in their context are very successful, but I've never had a show getting ten million before. I think it touches an absolute chord and I want to create other shows which trawl that deeply into the way we identify ourselves."

Bazalgette is currently looking at other areas of leisure expenditure which he hasn't yet

focused on. Cars, for instance. One important factor in any new programme will be the possibilities for exploiting it in as many ways as possible. Bazalgette is keen on exploitation. *Ready Steady Cook's* format has been sold to around ten countries and optioned in a further twenty. Around a million *Ready Steady Cook* books have been sold, a live show is planned and aprons and crockery sets are already available. Bazalgette now makes more money from exploiting the brand than he does from making the programmes.

I asked him if he would actually watch any of his own programmes if it wasn't part of his job. "God, that's a very cruel question," he replied. "I'd definitely watch *Changing Rooms*, and I think I would watch the food shows that have a good strong challenge aspect to them. Like *Ready Steady Cook*, although I'm not the sort of person who would make a regular date with them..."

A new light shines on a revolutionary legend

For 20 years, the woman who bore Steve Biko two children was silent. Now she speaks to Ann Treneman about their passion and politics



MAMPHELE RAMPHELE has had the kind of life that make films about. She was a revolutionary and the long-time lover of the anti-apartheid leader Steve Biko. She gave birth to two of his children, the last one being born shortly after he was beaten to death in custody by South African police. For nearly 20 years she let the gossips have their say and then decided enough was enough. The result was her autobiography, *A Life*, and a history corrected. It is not so much a case of Cry Freedom as Cry Foul because Ms Ramphele believes that she tells her own story best.

Now 50, Mamphele Ramphele is a major player in the new South Africa. As vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town, she holds what may be the most important academic post in the country, and last week she was in London raising funds for it. She says she'd like to think she has redefined the role of vice-chancellor. Somehow, I don't think that is

in dispute. Her visit to London also gave her an opportunity to tell her story, which you can hear today on BBC Radio 4's programme *The Choice*.

It is an amazing tale and, listening to it, you can't help but wonder if they made the wrong film. She admits that Richard Attenborough's film *Cry Freedom* did upset her.

"I was concerned about a distortion of history by somebody who didn't really know Steve and who was trying to project Steve as a Gandhi of sorts, which he wasn't," she says.

She is a small woman with a big laugh. Her story begins at the University of Natal in the late Sixties. She arrived from her village, unsophisticated but a fast learner, and immersed herself in student politics. "We actually started believing that we were not going to die as the slaves that our parents and our grandparents had been. We were convinced we were going to see freedom in our lifetime," she says. "We worked every day, absolutely fired by the knowledge that freedom was going to come." She knew,

even from the first, that Steve Biko was the stuff of history. "He was absolutely stunning, very attractive, very jovial, larger than life." She describes a life of politics and parties and talks of her love for Biko only in superlatives: it was a relationship, she says, that degenerated into passion.

But then, for someone in love, she did something odd. She married someone else.

"Naivety is the thing when you are young. You really have great difficulties making serious assessments. So even though I

was madly in love with this man, I went and married somebody else because I had made a commitment to do so. Absolutely stupid."

Not breaking the engagement is the defining regret of her life. "Steve knew I was making the wrong decision but there was no way he could convince me. His last attempt to do so was in a letter which went right into the hands of my fiancé and which I never saw. If I had had, perhaps it would have had some impact. But the rest is history." And, then Steve

Revelations: Mamphele Ramphele's autobiography, *A Life*, sets straight 20 years of gossip and movie myth

Photograph: David Rose

Biko got married. "Which was also a foolish decision," she says, "but there you are. A comedy of errors and a tragedy."

Her marriage did not last long. Her husband was jealous that she and Biko were still involved with politics together and, at some point, stopped trusting her. "Then obviously I was more open to a passionate relationship with Steve. In any case, it was a fire that had simply been covered with sand. Gradually the sand blew away and flames erupted."

Biko stayed married but the affair continued. Mamphele got pregnant with their first child in 1973. The baby, a daughter, died from pneumonia. "We decided not to have another child until we had sorted out this three-cornered relationship," says Mamphele. "He was married and his profile was too high for us to be seen acting irresponsibly. So we decided to be good citizens." At this she bursts out laughing. What did that mean? "Simply that we practised birth control."

But then the police cracked down and that was no longer possible. "That's why I have the police to thank for having this beautiful son. So the Lord works in mysterious ways."

At the time of Biko's death in 1977, Mamphele was in hospital with a threatened miscarriage. "I got a phone call from

one of our friends and I can still hear what she said. It really was like a searing pain that goes through you. You think, 'I won't survive this: it is impossible for me to survive the death of this man'. And yet you do, because you have no option."

At the time of his death, Steve Biko had started divorce proceedings. "So that was the ultimate blow to finishing what had been unfinished business."

In a way the book finished it as best it could. And she was also concerned that her son, Hlumelo, should understand his own history. "Very early on I made a choice that he was going to carry his father's surname. He was a product of love and he needed to understand that."

Hlumelo is now a student of politics and history at the University of Cape Town. His mother won't say what his reaction has been but she clearly wanted Hlumelo - who never met his father - to have it written down in black and white and for the world to know her truth too.

Is there any chance that one day her version will become a film? "Well, it's not that nobody has asked me but it's still very exploratory." So does she think they made the wrong movie? She just laughs and says "Well..."

Mamphele Ramphele talks to Michael Buckle today at 9pm on *The Choice* on Radio 4; it is repeated at 9.30pm.

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INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT
SAATCHI & SAATCHI

The Saatchi Gallery championed the young turks of BritArt. Now it's the turn of the young Americans. By Andrew Lambirth

Real oil painting is real cool

MR CHARLES SAATCHI has a lot to be thanked for. Since 1985, his beautifully spacious semi-public art gallery in St John's Wood has been mounting landmark exhibitions one after the other, besides securing on permanent display a large and important Richard Wilson installation. (This darkling mirror of sump oil remains on view by popular request.) The Saatchi Gallery is indeed a welcome addition to the capital's often cash-strapped museums, not least because of its policy of showing new art from abroad. Back in September 1987, Saatchi first put on an exhibition called *New York Art Now*, a two-part show which featured artists such as Ashley Bickerton and Jeff Koons. Recently Mr Saatchi has patriotically concentrated on buying British, mounting more than half-a-dozen YBA shows at his gallery, and finally showing a selection of the best at the Royal Academy in the *Sensation* exhibition. Now it would appear that he has been waving his cheque book elsewhere too; about to open at the Boundary Road establishment is *Young Americans 2: New American Art at the Saatchi Gallery*, another two-tier show, the first half of which will run from 30 April until 12 July.

This is the sequel to the 1996 American show which featured such notables as the pungent video artist Tony Oursler and sculptor Kiki Smith. In keeping with the times, much of the work then was installation-based, though Jacqueline Humphries showed Ian Davenport-style drip paintings, Sean Landers some conceptual canvases mostly involving writing, and Richard Prince delved into Philip Guston-like landscapes with piquant lettered-on sub-texts. On that showing, you would never have guessed that a revival of painting – painting in all its variousness and glory – was under way in the Big Apple.

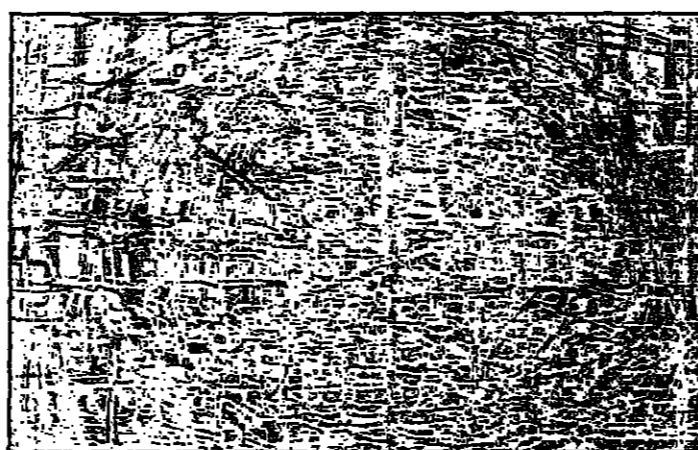
I'm not so sure that you'd immediately deduce that from Saatchi's new exhibition either. "Round up the usual suspects," I hear the sceptic cry, and yes, it is

true that Saatchi has previously shown at least a couple of these artists – to wit, the ubiquitous Ashley Bickerton and Carroll Dunham. Is Mr Saatchi pushed for new talent? Furthermore these two are half of a quartet of painters who are not exactly young, having made their reputations in the early 1980s. (The other pair are David Salle and Terry Winters.) For the rest, they're a usefully mixed bunch. Flip through the catalogue, and paintings seem to predominate: of the 150-odd illustrations, more than 90 are of paintings. But there's plenty of installation and photography and some stuff that's border-line sculpture.

Jessica Stockholder, for instance, makes constructions from ordinary found objects and then paints them, leading some critics (obviously those suffering from category-control syndrome) to dub these works "paintings".

The authors of the introductory essay in the Saatchi catalogue – Lisa Liebmann and Brooke Adams – identify a general state of "imagistic and intellectual flux" operative across the pond. (Is it really just as pluralistic over there as here?) They admit: "Nobody knows what's really been going on with art these days in the States." They do, however, pay close consideration to the work of Terry Winters (born 1949), who was recently heralded by the art critic of *The Village Voice* as the saviour of paint. Liebmann and Adams write that Winters' early 1990s paintings "packed an under-sighnerly, visceral punch, which was just what this perennial Lazarus of a medium was supposedly lacking". They also laud the "advanced demonic realism" of John Currin (born 1962).

Both these painters are mentioned with exemplary gusto in a forthcoming article by the artist Cecily Rose Brown (born 1969). Entitled "The Pleasure Principle" and due to be published in the May/June issue of *Flash Art*, that repository of the fashionable and dictionary of the happening, the article anatomises the New York art world with particular reference to



The Patron by Ashley Bickerton (above), Terry Winters' *Graphic Primitive I* (left) and David Salle's *Dean Martin in 'Some Came Running'* (right)

Photographs: Saatchi Gallery & David Salle/VAGA, NY and DACS London 1998



painting, and it makes very interesting reading.

Brown is a young English painter who trained at the Slade before moving to New York in 1994. Her first solo show there last year was a sell-out, with Charles Saatchi competing with the president of New York's Museum of Modern Art to buy pictures. Brown says that living and working in New York released her art, allowing her to make the kind of rich figurative paintings for which she has become known. These, she felt, were quite at odds with the prevailing Young British mentality of Hirst, Hume et al. In Britain her work didn't fit: she had to become an exile in order to develop as she needed.

In London, Brown says she was made to feel that painting the human figure in oil on canvas was a reprehensible, uncivil and reactionary occupation. As she writes: "I felt shame for my pleasure in painting, my predilection for emo-

tionally charged subjects and for my love of dead painters." Eventually she gave up – thankfully only briefly. New York gave her the context in which to work again, and at full-throttle. "This is an intoxicating time to be painting," she says, "and New York an exhilarating and sympathetic climate: the mood is generous and open and eclectic". She instances other painters she feels an affinity with – John Currin, Giles Lyon, Damien Loeb and Michael Bevilacqua among them.

What makes New York such a stimulating ambience for these artists? One thing to their advantage, as Brown sees it, is their relative time-distance from any major movement in painting. Bacon and de Kooning are dead, and though there are those who kept painting alive (she mentions Chuck Close, Alex Katz and Terry Winters), "most of the painting of the Eighties is so foreign in terms of sensibility that it is easy to almost forget all about it".

Cecily Brown herself paints huge baroque panoramas of intricate socio-sexual activity. She can orchestrate large casts brilliantly and designs her pictures like a new Rubens or Tiepolo. Her colour and imagery are rich, her technical knowledge increasingly assured. She even goes to the extreme old mastery length of varnishing her paintings (technique is back). And she knows how to draw, having been taught by the redoubtable Maggi Hambling.

If she and the very loosely associated group of painters she mentions in her article keep up the pace, the world's museum curators and jet-set private collectors will be patrolling the lofts and galleries of Manhattan more eagerly than ever before.

An indication of the changing mood on the New York gallery circuit is Cecily Brown's own recent experience. She was the first painter that the trendy contemporary dealer Jeffrey Deitch showed, way back

in the spring of 1997. Before that his gallery had been the locus of ultra-cool installations. The decision to show paintings as the coming thing thus represented a radical shift in the concept of what is and what can be hip.

Following her initial success, Brown was offered another show within a year. This exhibition of her new work, entitled *High Society*, runs from 24 April to 30 May at Deitch Projects, 76 Grand Street, New York 10013. It looks set to be another sell-out.

Is New York then poised for a comeback? The New York School of Pollock, de Kooning and Warhol dominated the international painting scene from 1945, but in recent years it has rather run out of steam. Many commentators look to Britain for the new stars, and are ready and willing to crown the first pretender who makes enough noise.

To be fair, there is quite a lot of experimentation being done over

here in the name of painting – but it's still rather as if our young artists had just discovered the wheel and were very pleased with their invention. They seem strangely disabled through a lack of interest in the past: as if anything pre-20th Century had nothing to do with them.

One of the strengths of the painting currently being done in New York is its awareness of past art, of the great tradition of oil painting. This awareness does not make contemporary work look traditional, it merely enriches it with a sense of art as a continuum. So it seems that real painting is alive and well and living in New York. Which means that it will be back over here in a few years' time – when the Brits have caught up. In the meantime, take the plane.

The Saatchi Gallery, open Thurs-Sun, 12 noon to 6pm. Admission £4 (£2 conc). 98A Boundary Road, London NW8 0RH. Infoline: 0171 624 8299.

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Where do you go if you want a nique object for your home or office? John Windsor offers some affordable suggestions

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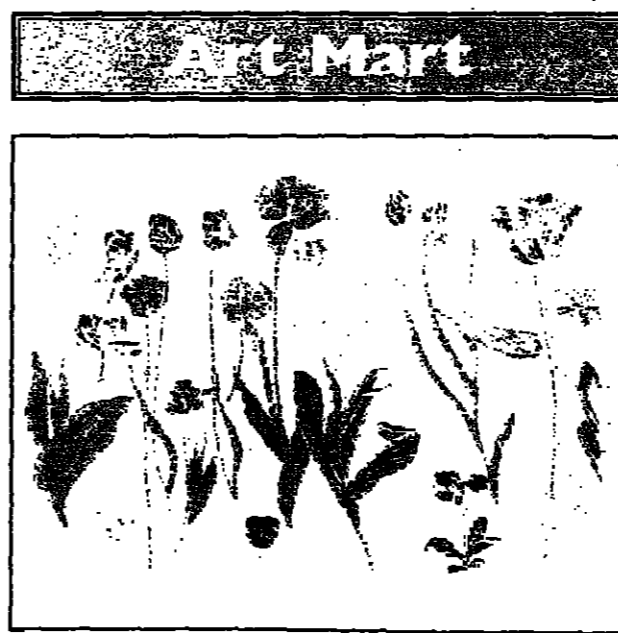


NEXT WEEK IN THE
INDEPENDENT
ON SUNDAY



JON MILLER'S *Cooker Seat* is perfectly safe – health and safety officers insisted on the fuses being removed before it was displayed in *Hammer and Tongs*, a show of contemporary artist blacksmiths at the University of Essex. The show's quirky furniture, vessels and sculpture could signal a new Iron Age. A surgical trolley by Mills, 38, is in the show of automata at Croydon Clock Tower. His hot seat costs £900 to commission. *Hammer and Tongs* runs until 15 May at the University of Essex Gallery, Square 5, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex (0206 872074).

A BIT more soothing – John Butler's 18in tall limewood model *Portrait of My Wife as a Comfy Chair*. Butler, 50, says: "My wife is motherly and well-upholstered. Children sit on her lap because she's warm and cuddly. A friend told her 'you're just like an armchair', so I made the model. I thought she might be offended, but she says 'it's really lovely'." The chair is £850 and is among 458 exhibits at the *Academicians' Exhibition*, until 16 May at the Royal West of England Academy, Queen's Road, Clifton, Bristol (0117 973 5129).



These tulips, grown by Elizabeth Blackadder in her Edinburgh garden and screenprinted by her in an edition of 80, are £600 + VAT at the Glasgow Print Studio's stand at the London Original Print Fair at the Royal Academy, Piccadilly, west London, until Sunday [Mem, that's 3 May]. Entry £5.

FLOWER POWER is not dead. There's a New Wave in rock poster art – away from psychedelics and into comic book graphics – and its leading light is 29-year-old Alan Forbes. Six months ago, his posters retailed for \$20 at the world's biggest rock art distributors, ArtRock, in San Francisco. Now they cost \$200. This one, for the re-formed band The Damned, one of a dozen he has signed for an auction of "High Art" on 5 May (Ham) is estimated £150-£250. Bonhams, Chelsea, 65-69 Lots Road, London, SW10 (0171 393 3900).



IN A country cottage by a remote lake in Finland, where she spends summers with her mother, also an artist, Anna Riitta Haavisto picked these blackcurrant stalks, decked them with coloured ribbons like a multitude of twittering lapel bows, and called them "Spring Migration of Birds". It is £650 at the mother-daughter show of textile-based artworks, *Two Generations Two Visions*, until Saturday, 2 May at the Coningsby Gallery, 30 Tottenham Street, London W1 (0171-636 7478).

Andrew Lambirth



See contact: Beth Wagstaff, with her six-year-old son Ben. 'When I was first diagnosed with breast cancer, I found myself very isolated,' she says Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

Too young for all that

New fund founded in memory of Ruth Picardie aims to help younger breast cancer sufferers. Nicole Veash reports

Ruth Picardie was 33 when she died last year. Married to a doctor, she was the mother of two-year-old twins, and a journalist. She was also one of the 100 young women afflicted with breast cancer each year. Linda McCartney, who died when she was 36, was another of the breast cancer sufferers. The 1990s are targeted with regimens and they tend to be in advertising campaigns. You can't hear much about the 100 young women with the disease. Yet in 1995, breast cancer can take a more aggressive form.

John Toy, director of the Cancer Research Campaign, says: "Breast cancer is more aggressive in younger women. This is the case with all patients. Cancer has receptors on the surface of the cell which respond to the oestrogen in pre-menopausal women. So breast cancer can be more difficult to treat in some individuals."

Now a new fund has been set up to fill the gap in services for younger women. Called the Ruth Picardie Fund, it is the child of Beth Wagstaff, a 36-year-old mother of three, and her husband, a doctor.

When I was first diagnosed with breast cancer, I found myself very isolated, she says. "I would go to the clinic for an appointment

and often be mistaken for somebody's daughter. None of the other women I met had breast cancer. I remember thinking: 'Why have I got this disease? No one else my age is affected.'"

It was through a chance note pinned up on a hospital noticeboard that Ruth and Beth first got in touch. "It was after my first bout of chemotherapy," says Beth. "I sent a thank you card to the doctors saying something silly like it was a pleasure to take my clothes off in front of a group of young men. Ruth saw it, realised I was a younger woman with breast cancer and tracked me down."

For a fleeting moment, the two women's lives co-incided.

"We seemed to have a lot in common," recalls Beth. "Mutual friends, interests, young children and, of course, the cancer. We only had a short time together because there were so many other demands but there was a closeness between us. I remember us sitting on the bed and wondering what the world would be like without us."

When Ruth died it left a big hole in my life from which I have never really recovered, which is extraordinary given the shortness of our relationship."

The Ruth Picardie Fund, to be launched in Ruth's memory on 1 May - her birthday - is Beth's attempt to fill that gap. The fund will coincide with the publication of a collection of

Ruth's award-winning columns. *Before I Say Goodbye*, as a Penguin paperback (see panel) and there will be a benefit concert organised by *The Observer* at the ICA in London on Saturday.

The trust will provide support and care services for young women afflicted with breast cancer. Working under the auspices of Breast Cancer Care, the trust's founders plan to set up a nationwide network of support groups. "At the moment there is only one place where younger women can meet each other and that's in London, which is ridiculous," says Beth. "I know how important it is to have someone of your own age to talk to and American research shows that meeting your peers

when terminally ill can increase your life span by 18 months."

"It is difficult to relate to a 70-year-old woman who is upset that she is not going to see her grandchildren grow up when you are facing the prospect that you will not see your own children grow up," says Beth. "Also leaving a young partner, who has to cope with a young family is a very different burden to deal with."

"And there is the economic side. Many of us hold full-time jobs and provide financially for our families. We can't make support meetings at 11am."

Beth is adamant that the trust, which aims to raise £1m, will not take resources away from older women affected by

breast cancer. "We want to increase the pie by attracting extra funds and not try to divide what is in the kitty."

It also intends to provide support for bereaved partners. And it wants to make a difference providing the special things in life. Beth explains: "If you feel bad about your body image because you might have no hair or your weight has ballooned, there has to be something to pick you up. We want to pay for an aromatherapy massage before a chemotherapy session, for example, or perhaps provide a new outfit because many women can't afford new clothes when steroids make them expand three sizes."

"I really can't think of anything more worthwhile than supporting other women like Ruth and myself. And if I don't do it now, I might not be able to next year."

Lavender Trust: donations
0171 384 2934; advice line 0500 245345; or write to Lavender Trust, c/o Breast Cancer Care, Kilm House, 270 New Kings Road, London SW6 4NZ.

Words of comfort from one who knew

NEWS that the columns Ruth Picardie wrote before she died, along with some correspondence, were to appear in an anthology puzzled me, writes Hilary Jones.

Dazzling and moving as they were, Ruth only managed half-a-dozen pieces, and even fleshed out with readers' letters and the painfully honest and eloquent account of her death by her husband, Matt Seaton, I couldn't quite see how that made a book. And what more was there to say?

I was wrong. Picking *Before I Say Goodbye* up one evening, I read until I had

finished it later that night. Although plenty was so distressingly familiar in its slender 100 or so pages, much was a revelation.

The case it makes for e-mail as a medium for expressing innermost feelings on the most painful of subjects is compelling. Ruth used it for everything from sharing her feelings about death with an HIV-positive friend, to exchanging her trademark girly banter on frocks, food and face cream.

The letters are mostly from complete strangers, but whom Ruth touched in the most tender places: a young

man who lay awake watching his girlfriend one night, newly aware of how precious and fragile she was; the young woman whose beloved father had recently died of cancer.

One reason for buying this book is that for every copy sold, 10p goes to The Ruth Picardie Trust. But there is another: for anyone suffering from a terminal illness, or dealing with the imminent or recent death of a loved one, it is simply one of the most profound sources of comfort you could hope to find. *Before I Say Goodbye* is published 5 May by Penguin, price £5.99.



Dazzling and moving

Folic acid — the latest wonder-vitamin?

FOR THE past 20 years a number of vitamins have ended their 15 minutes of fame. High doses of vitamin C were thought to protect against cancer and vitamin E was hailed as defence against heart disease. In most cases, the early hype, though at first persuasive, have not been confirmed.

The best that researchers have been able to offer is the old advice to eat a balanced diet with plenty of fruit and vegetables. Now scientists have become excited about folic acid, one of the constituents of the vitamin B complex. Its influence is being investigated on a range of conditions, from birth defects to heart disease to dementia.

Confidence in its benefits is high enough for the US Food and Drug Administration to have decreed, as of 1 January, that all flour and cereals sold in America must be fortified with it. In the UK, a similar move is being considered by the Government's Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy.

So, could folic acid be "the biggest thing since the discovery that hygiene was important to health", as one excitable researcher suggested last week?

Derived from "follate", folic acid is found in dark green leafy vegetables, such as brussels sprouts, spinach, and green beans, and in oranges and liver, but it is difficult to get an adequate daily dose from the diet alone. Some UK manufacturers add it to breakfast cereals and breads, but it is not mandatory.

It has long been known to prevent neural tube defects, such as spina bifida in the developing foetus, and supplements are routinely given to pregnant women. Latest studies suggest that it may also be

effective in preventing heart attacks and strokes. Cardiovascular disease is known to be linked with high levels of homocysteine, an amino acid, in the blood. A study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* this month showed that giving folic acid supplements to people with cardiovascular disease successfully lowered their homocysteine levels, theoretically reducing their risk of an attack.

Yesterday, researchers from Oxford University presented evidence at an international conference in the Netherlands that the brains of people who died from Alzheimer's disease had high homocysteine levels in their blood which might trigger a "vascular event" interrupting

the blood supply to the brain. These are preliminary findings which require follow-up studies to see if giving folic acid supplements can prevent the condition. But some specialists believe the evidence on other fronts is already strong enough. Dr Mary Ward, a nutritionist at the University of Ulster, who has researched folic acid, said: "I am not a great advocate of multivitamins because people can overdose on them and if they eat a balanced diet they shouldn't need them. But there does seem to be an argument for taking folic acid supplements. I would advocate them for everyone."

Jeremy Laurance

Do drink the water — wash with it, too



DR PHIL HAMMOND

"MORNING doctor." "Morning Mrs Underhill. What can I do for you?" "It's about our Terry. He's started washing in urine."

"His own?" "So far as I know."

"And?" "And nothing really. That's it. He shampoos in it, he dabs it on his face and he flushes it up his nose."

"Does he swallow it?" "Well, I suppose you would swallow a bit if you poured it up your nose..."

"No, I mean does he drink it deliberately?" "Now why would he want to do a thing like that?"

"Lots of people do. In India, they have been doing it for 5,000 years. In Japan for 2,000, and the Romans and Greeks were into urine therapy long before Christ."

"He didn't do it as well, did he?" "Who knows? Some claim it's endorsed in the good book: 'Drink waters out of thine own cistern and running waters out of thine own well.' Proverbs 5: 15-17."

"Yes, but why would anybody do it? What's the point?" "Well, drinkers believe that it improves general health and well being, gives you energy and calms you down. Some even think that as your urine is formed, it picks up vital messages about your body's immune system and retains them — rather like homeopathic remedies are said to have a memory."

"And what do you think?" "There's no proof for any of it, but if you believe drinking your own pee will make you feel better then I'm sure it will."

"Yes, but won't it do you any harm?" "Only if that's all you drink. If you go for a sterile mid-stream sample and limit yourself to a cup or two a day, it probably won't harm you."

"What does it taste like?" "I've only ever tried it on rugby tour and I can't quite remember. But I know one woman who claims she can detect her diet from the taste

of her urine. Apple crumble makes it sweet, for example."

"And diabetes?" "Absolutely. In the days of yore it was diagnosed by tasting."

"Doesn't it make your breath stink?" "Strangely not. The drinkers I know have honey-fresh breath and kiss with confidence."

"That's what I'm most worried about with our Terry. He's been single for five years now and it's about time he settled down. But who in there right mind would marry someone who washes his hair in pee?"

"Does it smell?" "No. Not so you'd notice."

"Does it look clean?" "Oh yes, it's got plenty of bounce."

"There you are then. No one's going to know and if they use the bathroom, they will think it's baby shampoo."

"So, you don't think he'll stink the house out? Only, the girls from the weight-watching class come round on a Wednesday and you know how bitchy they can be?"

"For some reason, people who wash in urine don't smell and neither do their houses. In fact, a woman I met says she gets more hugs than ever when she bathes in it because her friends think she smells more 'me-ish'."

"Our Terry says I should put some on my skin. I get dreadful athlete's foot."

"Well, there's more sense in dabbing than swallowing. Fresh urine is sterile, contains urea, a moisturiser in many proprietary skin creams and is toxic to bacteria and fungi."

"So it might work?" "Absolutely. Peter Tatchell swears by it, and so did my maternal grandmother."

"Anyone else?" "Japanese POWs used urine compresses on war wounds and tropical ulcers, squaddies often piss in their boots to prevent foot rot and bricklayers used to pee on their hands to prevent dermatitis from lime contact. Also, many people claim their sinus and allergy problems have been cured by nasal washouts using a specially made 'Neti' pot. And in Germany, they've sold over 100,000 copies of the urophile's bible, *The Golden Fountain*..."

"Do you know what my Terry says?" "Amaze me."

"Drink piss. A million swans can't be wrong."

"Well, there you are then. QED."

The Golden Fountain: The Complete Guide to Urine Therapy by Coen van der Kroon (Amelyst Books, £8.95).

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Honourable ladies in a legal tangle

IT IS a year since Blair's babes arrived at Westminster. On 1 May 1997, 101 women were elected for the Labour Party in Parliament. It was a record. Their numbers were and remain the envy of Paddy Ashdown and William Hague. It was also a vindication of the Labour Party's positive action to promote the number of females in the House of Commons. Let us remind ourselves about the dread warnings we heard before the election that these women would be out of their depth, that they would be undermined for being there by reasons other than on merit and that their assumed incompetence would drag down Parliament's prestige.

Well, there has been some sniping. And they have provided a few notable disappointments. But, on the whole, New Labour's honourable ladies have proved to be assets to the Prime Minister's party. We would defy anyone to pick out those women members who were selected on an all-women shortlist from those who were not. And the influence of the new intake may in time help Parliament to modernise and shake off some of its more absurd anachronisms and the *Loaded* outlook of some of its lads. More importantly, simply by being there they help the institution to be more representative, although women still only represent 18 per cent of the membership of the Commons. As the elections to the myriad new assemblies and the European Parliament approach, all of the parties are thrashing around for ways to boost the representation of women in politics. The Labour Party in Wales last night decided that it didn't know what to do. It could not even follow the example of its sister party in Scotland except to the extent that whatever it ends up with will be complicated. However, when the executive of the Welsh Labour Party even thinks about such a radical proposal it is time to take note and start thinking afresh about female representation.

The mechanism of the Scottish (and maybe the Welsh) system consists of "twinning" - providing for one safe seat in the respective bodies to be reserved for a woman for every safe seat where a man is the candidate. The Liberal Democrats have dreamed up a different scam for the European elections. Their system of "zipping" means that men and women are alternated down the list of party candidates for the large Euro-seats. This is designed to achieve a gender balance. The objection to these systems is not that they are complex, which they are; or that they are in effect discriminatory, which is also true. It is rather that they are unreliable because the legal framework makes their operation at best hazardous. Simply put, we do not seem to know what the law allows us to do. It is thus impossible for the political parties to design systems that are ideal. At least we should be sure about what we would like the law to allow us to do.

The biggest single obstacle now facing positive action we should call "legalism". Huge resources have been and will continue to be swallowed up in dreaming up ever more crafty dodges to get round the legal obstacles. And there are potentially as many roadblocks on the course of progress as there are lawyers to give you an opinion about what may or may not be lawful under statute, judge-made, English, European, Scottish or Marian law. These are substantial problems. They put the kibosh on the women-only shortlist policy that Labour pursued for a time in the last parliament (not by the way, our ideal method of promoting women). The views of Lord Irvine on the possibilities of boosting the number of women in the Scottish Parliament were also unhelpful.

But this is a political issue with a strong imperative. We do not want to live under a system of female tokenism. Margaret Thatcher has written about her difficulties with the attitudes of some local selection panels, and the "hurt and humiliation" they caused. She described her position in Ted Heath's shadow cabinet: "I was principally there as the statutory woman to explain what 'women' - Kiri Te Kanawa, Barbara Cartland, Esther Rantzen, Stella Rimington and all the rest of our uniform, undifferentiated sex - were likely to think and want on troublesome issues." We cannot be assured that these attitudes have disappeared. This is the reason why some forms of positive action are desirable. The need is not diminished by the legal circumlocutions that have led to almost universal confusion about the matter. Political parties, provided they come to their conclusions democratically, have every right to try and govern their affairs as they wish. It is obvious that politics and elections present a special case to the general approach of outlawing sexual discrimination in employment. It is time to change the law, if necessary at a European level.

In the meantime politicians of all parties, and especially in the Government, have a wide range of institutions where they can try to further the cause of women even at the expense of tut-tutting from lawyers: in Scotland, Wales, Europe, London, local authorities and for the replacement for the House of Lords there is much that can be done. All that is needed is the political will that the voters showed last year to give the system a firm kick in the balls.

One for the money ...

SO YOU thought Rod Stewart was just a 53-year-old rock star with a sagging backside in a pair of super-tight leopardskin pants? Well he isn't. And Rachel Hunt is not the only one who thinks he's sexy. He has sailed across the Atlantic and signed a deal with the brokers Nomura. Mr Stewart will receive a loan of \$15.4m (£9.2m) against his future earnings from royalties on his classic recordings. This loan will be secured, which means that, if you were so inclined, you could own a part of Rod in terms of running a claim on his future earnings.

But the first cut was the deepest. The man who really sold the world was David Bowie who raised \$55m against his future income in a deal with the US investment bank Fuhnestock. But its not just diamond dogs like these top stars who can go in for securitisation. The Rod Bond suggests that these big finance houses can engineer anything. Why, the day may come when any old baby Jane could tell the banks that "tonight I'm yours". Sadly most of us are unlikely to command the same kind of sums as Rod. But then again, some guys have all the luck.



MILES KINGSTON

"TALKING about Cool Britannia and things cool and uncool," said the man at the bar. "I saw a list in the paper the other day of things that were cool, and places that were cool, and I thought to myself: a guide to what is cool is not cool, whatever else it is."

"I tell you one thing that is not cool," said the landlord, "and that is the Oscars. Why does anyone bother?"

"If there was anything cool about the Oscars, they wouldn't have given every prize to *Titanic*; they'd have given half of them to *The Full Monty*," said the man with the dog.

"Oh, come ON!" said the man with the rolled-up evening paper. "There's nothing cool about *The Full Monty*. It's cool NOT to like it."

"And where do YOU stand on *The Full Monty*?" said the lady with the Campari.

"Haven't seen it."

"Have you seen *Titanic*?"

"No."

"There you are, then!" said the lady with the Campari triumphantly.

"Where am I?" said the man.

"If you haven't seen it, you shouldn't talk about it."

"You mean," said the man, now waving his rolled-up paper, "never talk about things you haven't experienced personally?" And therefore we should never talk about Australia, or Concorde, or the 19th century, or ... or ..."

"The thing about the film *Titanic*," said the man at the bar, heading the conversation off before it hit an iceberg, "is that, as everyone has pointed out, it got more Oscars than any film since *Ben Hur*. What no one has pointed out is that *Ben Hur* was also a rotten film. It is never revived, never written about, never seen and never featured in a list of My Top 100 Films. If I had made

Titanic, I'd be worried."

"If I'd made *Titanic*," said the man with the dog, "I'd change my name. James Cameron was the name of a great journalist. I don't think people who do special effects films should be allowed to use it."

"The man I feel sorry for is Leonardo diCaprio," said the lady with the Campari.

"What's to be sorry about?" chorled, yes chorled, the man at the bar. "Poor old Leonardo! Sinking under the weight of so many Oscars! So many admiring women!"

"What's brave about him is sporting the name 'Leonardo'," she said stoutly. "It's bad enough using a foreign name in America, but being named after a Ninja mutant teenage turtle..."

"He wasn't actually named after a turtle," said someone helpfully.

"I know that, dear," said the lady scornfully, "but the American public doesn't know that. The American public doesn't

know anything. The American public can't be trusted to pronounce Aida properly. The American public thinks that Donatello is a turtle and they'll think that Leonardo DiCaprio is named after one ..."

"We're all very proud of knowing that Donatello was a painter," muttered the resident Welshman, "but I bet nobody can name any of his paintings."

"And now," the lady with the Campari cruised on, "now poor old Leonardo DiCaprio has had to shorten his name from Leonardo to Leo. Leo DiCaprio. Not quite the same ring."

"From being the only film star named after a turtle," said the man at the bar, "he has become the only film star named after a star sign."

There was a tense silence in the pub as everyone raced mentally to be the first person to think of another star sign which might be interpreted as a film star's name. I heard

someone muttering "Gemini Irons" under his breath, but nobody said anything out loud, so I ventured to interject:—

"Donato di Betto Bardi."

"Who's he when he's at home?" said the Campari lady.

"That's Donatello's real name," I said. "And the reason we can't name any of his paintings is that he didn't do any. He was a sculptor, not a painter."

There was a long silence. I realised, too late, that, by being unable to resist showing off, I had broken the golden rule of pub conversation: Facts Are Two A Penny. But Opinion Is Sacred. That is why pub quizzes were invented. To liberate pub conversation from mere fact and keep it free for prejudice.

"Sorry," I said. "I'll do the honourable thing and go home."

And I did. After all, I'd been looking for an excuse to leave for an hour or more.

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Gays and the church

JOHN LITTLE has seriously misrepresented OutRage's stance on outing ("Self-righteous brother", 23 April). We would never out a private individual, and would out a public figure only if they were abusing their power to harm the gay community. No one has been outed by us because they are gay. It is because they are hypocrites and homophobes.

The claim that OutRage! is conducting a "reign of terror" is ludicrous. OutRage! once - four years ago - asked ten Anglican bishops to "tell the truth". No other people have been named by OutRage!.

Bishops who endorse church homophobia in public, despite their own private homosexuality, should not complain if their hypocrisy is exposed. It may have caused the bishops some embarrassment to be found out, but that is a minor inconvenience compared to the suffering they have helped inflict on other gay people.

DAVE ALLISON
OutRage!
London W1

CRAIG ANDERSON (letter, 23 April) finds biblical condemnation of homosexuality clear-cut. I wonder if he is as comfortable with the host of other laws of Leviticus and Deuteronomy, such as the stoning of blasphemers (Lev 24:16) and adulterers (Deut 22:22), the ostracising of menstruating and newly delivered women (Lev 12:2-5; 15:19), and making animal sacrifices to atone for inadvertent breach of a Commandment (Lev 4).

As well as providing a moral code, the purpose of many of these laws appears to have been to identify and distinguish the Israelites socially and culturally from other peoples (Gentiles) and their customs. One of these peoples were the Greeks, whose culture is part of our heritage. I would also refer Mr Anderson to the New Testament and Jesus' charge that the Pharisees observe the tradition of the law rather than the word of God (Matthew 15:3-6; Mark 7:8-9).

HELEN KRAUS
Kew, Surrey

CRAIG ANDERSON's letter (23 April) illustrates precisely the problem I was referring to in my own letter (20 April).

The Hebrew word, which is translated as "detestable" in his Bible and as "abomination" in the authorised version, is "to'evah". This is a technical religious word to describe something which is ritually unclean or alien. The word is strongly linked to foreigners and often appears as part of a stock phrase "to'evah ha-goyim" - "the uncleanness of the foreigners". A Jew would not enter the house of a foreigner for fear that it would make him unclean.

If the writers of Leviticus saw homosexual behaviour as a sin or an injustice, they would more plausibly have used the word "sinah". The biblical evidence is not as straightforward as Mr Anderson thinks.

But in any case the Bible cannot be used in this way. We do not accept all the teaching in Leviticus; it no longer accords with our knowledge, or our Christian understanding, of justice or humanity, and verse 22 of chapter 18 is an example of this. The Rev NEIL DAWSON
St Paul's, Knightsbridge
London SW7

THE Rev Neil Dawson, in his letter of 20 April, asserts that those who regard homosexuality as sinful are guilty of poor biblical scholarship, prejudice, hypocrisy and are ill-informed. The issue cannot be decided by name-calling.

The biblical teaching on sex is that God created male and female human beings in his own image and that sex is for married male/female couples alone. The Bible as a whole condemns all distortion of this basic principle, whether pre-marital sex, adultery or homosexuality.

The Bible's teaching on sex is consistent from beginning to end. It does not belong with those parts of the Bible that spoke to a unique point

in salvation history, such as the Old Testament holy wars.

If the Church is cowed by the growing homosexual lobby and its supporters into jettisoning biblical teaching on homosexual sex, then she will have failed in her calling to challenge a sinful world with the sometimes uncomfortable light of God's Word.

The Rev GUY A DAVIES
Sauminster Newton, Dorset

Caring for Ludlow

FEW would disagree with Sir Julian Critchley ("Saving the view from the bridge", 18 April) that Ludlow is a pearl of English townscape.

The historic fabric of the town is lovingly tended by its owners, mostly, like Sir Julian, private householders. But the local planning authority cares just as passionately about the town and spends considerable resources on it.

The old swimming pool will be expensive to demolish, the funds for which may have to come from redevelopment. Development on the site is hardly shocking, as it has had mill buildings on it for centuries, as seen in the Turner watercolour. The rejected scheme for the site was carefully designed to give the impression of mill buildings.

Ludlow is a working market town and not a museum. The keys to its future are its prosperity and its historic fabric. Market towns will not survive unless the market has the facilities it needs to operate. The council is as keen as Sir Julian not to have the town decline because of out-of-town retailing and has successfully resisted proposals of this kind. But Ludlow's butchers and other shops continue to thrive because they provide a good service; not because there is no Tesco. Ludlow shops have much to gain from new trade which will be attracted by a modern supermarket.

Until recently, all the land at Gallops Bank was zoned for housing. The Council has agreed to allow some of it to be retained as open space, just as Sir Julian suggests. As for the development of fields to the south of the town, no such thing is proposed in either the current local plan or its proposed replacement. JAMES CAIRD
Head of Planning and Building Control
South Shropshire District Council
Ludlow, Shropshire

After the dance

LINDA YATES is quoted ("What happens after the last dance is over?", 17 April) as saying that when she first became executive director of the Dancers' Resettlement Fund, for many dancers retirement equalled death. This is hard to understand since Miss Yates's predecessor, Margaret Lawford Wilson, was responsible for running the fund soon after the Arts Council, with Equity, launched it in 1973.

Margaret advised dancers on re-training and other opportunities for about fifteen years until her untimely death and no dancer eligible for assistance from the fund was ever left to feel there was no future once their dancing days were over. The establishment of the fund was in fact one of the most important achievements of my advisers during my two decades of responsibility for dance at the Arts Council.

I am happy to agree with the final paragraph about dancers' strengths. Margaret had little difficulty in "selling" dancers to those responsible for training schemes since dancers became renowned very early on for their discipline and single-mindedness. JANE NICHOLAS
London W6
The writer was dance director, Arts Council of Great Britain 1979-89

Spirit of the People

SOMEONE should tell Susan Moore ("A National Obsession", April) that the People's World Cup is just like the People's Diana, People's Millennium Dome, People's Lottery, the People's Mayor for London and, when it comes the People's Euro.

Sensible reservations like hers are not just irrelevant, they are meaningless, since the essence of all these packages as they are sold to us is objectivity, but enthusiasm. They are not intended to be approached with spirit of calm disinterest - that's the biffos. To criticise a People's Euro is to show that you don't feel part of it. If you don't feel part of it, you're not part of New Britain. If you're not part of New Britain you're an old thinker. If you're an old-thinker you're not entitled to criticise.

Game, set and match to the New Third Way in politics. CA BANKS
London SE8

Flag of inconvenience

ONCE AGAIN (24 April) someone has written to point out that the Union Flag has been flown upside down, and that this is a "distress signal". Is this just a myth? It seems unlikely to be true, because it is obviously very easy to fly the Union Flag upside down inadvertently, it is very difficult to tell at a glance which way up the flag is, and there are unambiguous distress signal flags for different situations such as fire, and so on. Can anyone shed any light on this? ALEXANDER CAMPBELL
St John's College, Oxford

Bishop on a bike

PATRICK LOCKE, the Church Commissioners' Secretary, tells us that bishops are provided with suitable cars in the 1.6 to 2.3 litre range and sometimes with a driver (letter, 24 April). I understand that when the late Trevor Huddleston was bishop of Masasi he went everywhere by pushbike. J R HEATH
Southampton

Titanic collides with a giant turtle in the fact-free zone

otest
nes

Should Mary Bell be paid for telling her story to an author?



ANDREAS
WHITTAM SMITH
ON THE PUBLIC
INTEREST DEFENCE

WHAT is the public interest in a further book about Mary Bell, the child murderer? That is the key question in a controversy which has blown up about whether Bell should have been paid for her collaboration by the author, Gita Sereny. While the public interest can support many things, even the early release of terrorist killers from prison in Northern Ireland, it should never be pleaded lightly. Nonetheless it is the essence of the case put forward by the distinguished writer.

She said over the weekend that unprecedented access to Bell, for which she had had to pay, had helped her to produce a serious analysis of the reasons why children become killers, "which can only be in the public interest". And she added: "There are no excuses for what she did and she herself admits that, but it is an explanation we have never had before. It is important to have such knowledge."

Sereny has already written one book on the subject - *The Case of Mary Bell*. It was published in 1972, four years after Bell, then aged 11, had been convicted for the manslaughter - rather than the murder - of two boys, aged four and three, on the grounds of diminished responsibility. She was given a life sentence in December, 1968 and released from prison in 1980. I haven't read *The Case of Mary Bell*, but having enjoyed Sereny's study of Albert Speer, Hitler's overlord of the Nazi war economy, I can well believe that the 1972 publication was thorough and perceptive, albeit lacking Bell's reflections.

However we should not have to wait for a journalist to turn up, read the evidence, conduct interviews, hand out money to a convicted killer and write a book in order to learn more about the minds of child murderers. The undoubted public interest in understanding why children occasionally kill children - there have been, thankfully, only 27 recorded occurrences in Britain in the past 250 years including the Bulger case - would probably best be served by professional psychiatrists working in prisons and comparing what they learn with work done elsewhere. Except that, disgracefully, nothing like that seems to have taken place in this instance.

The judge wanted to place Bell into indefinite psychiatric care. But such accommodation was not available and instead Mr Justice Cusack had to pass a life sentence. He said: "It is a most unhappy thing that in all the resources of this country, it appears there is no hospital available which is suitable for the accommodation of this girl." What happened to Bell is barely credible.

She received no psychiatric treatment at all, despite having been charged on the footing of "diminished responsibility". Instead she went to a remand home for children in London. But as a result of the objections of

local residents, she was quickly moved to an approved school for boys - yes, boys, 22 of them! On reaching 16 she was transferred to a woman's prison in Cheshire and then to an open-prison in Staffordshire.

While these are the classic conditions under which publishers can plead the public interest - when the state has manifestly failed to do what we expect of it - they are not sufficient. Certainly it seems that there has been only Sereny to analyse the Bell case and to point out the lessons. That fact is not necessarily enough, however, to exculpate her or her publishers from the criticisms that have been made. Even the Prime Minister has intervened and asked the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, to look into the matter.

The point about relying upon the public interest as justification, is that it always carries with it a cost, or a disadvantage. Otherwise it would not be necessary to call upon such a lofty notion as explanation for one's actions. What are the minuses here?

I put in first place the renewed suffering of the families of the two victims. The mother of Martin Brown, June Richardson, said: "It's like Martin has been killed all over again." The other parents were too distressed to speak of their feelings.

A second minus is the issue which attracted the headlines - the payment to Mary Bell. It was first stated to have been £50,000, but Gita Sereny says that this is a figure plucked out of the air - as most probably it was. She admits that yes, Bell did receive some money "from me", but she does not indicate how much. It is puzzling that the author should have felt the need to pay. As soon as a reporter offers money for information, he or she is subject to the risk that material will be invented, or at least embroidered, simply to

Gita Sereny admits
that yes, Bell did
receive some money
"from me"

please the buyer and attract more funds. And if you are dealing with the childhood memories and the half-submerged recollections of an unhappy girl whose mother was a prostitute specialising in sado-masochism, and whose father was a drunken, petty criminal, then the difficulties are all the greater.

There is finally the aspect of the transaction which Sereny is far too intelligent and experienced not to have noticed - providing a monetary reward for the perpetrator of a crime, albeit long after the event and therefore not illegal. The families must be wondering whether Sereny's payment has not had the effect of putting Bell into a better financial position than the ones in which they find themselves, they who are the victims of the crimes along with their slaughtered children.

I can rephrase my question: what is the public interest in the book, seeing how great are the disadvantages of the endeavour? Alas, as publication is not due for a few days, I cannot give an answer. But Sereny is a compassionate woman with a belief in the innate goodness of human beings which she has held onto through a long life. She has, in different parts of Europe, confronted and alleviated much human misery. I hope she hasn't made a mistake in returning to the case of Mary Bell and that her work will justify her methods.

If you want to find true British values today, look to black youth

A close look at
race across Britain
has persuaded
Sir Peregrine
Worsthorne
to abandon his
racial prejudices



Multi-cultural Britain: preferable to Cool Britannia every time

Photograph: Gideon Mendel/Network

WHILE spending a fortnight filming a programme on race, I listened to a great many views, including those of black and white police officers, soldiers, teachers, children, sportsmen and many others.

Television is good at communicating visual images and very bad at communicating ideas. Because of that, I rather doubt whether anyone watching me and Darius Darcus, the radical black journalist who shared my investigations, was much the wiser about where we stand on this great issue at the end than at the beginning of Channel 4's *England, My England* last Sunday night. Indeed, I am still a bit muddled myself.

Race is still a problem for some of my generation. No longer because we regard blacks as inferior but because, having done so in the past, traces of that prejudice remain in the blood despite being banished from the brain.

Looking back I am amazed about the depth of racist indoctrination which I received at school and in the home not explicitly but implicitly. At the best blacks were regarded as delinquent children and at the worst cannibals and savages. For years those assumptions lingered, seriously affecting my reporting on the de-colonising process in Africa.

India, of course, was another matter. There snobbery came into the picture and polo-playing Maharajahs were grand enough to be treated as honorary gentlemen. Not so African chiefs. I remember in the early 1960s visiting a Ghanaian chief, king of the Ashanti, who was living in what was more like a chicken coop than a palace. His black subjects approached him only on all fours, but white visitors scarcely bothered to take off their hats.

No, we should admit that our colonial treatment of blacks was not a pretty story. But that is all in the past. I am glad to say that in all our travels around the country Darcus met nothing but deference. The only hint of racism we encountered was on the terraces during a football match when a white lout tried to attack Darcus and yelled obscenities at him. But even that ugly incident had a

happy ending because, at the end of the game, the lout's white companion forced the offender to apologise.

At my old school, Stowe in Buckinghamshire, Darcus's prowess in the cricket nets assured him a hero's welcome. Unlike in my day before World War II when there was not a black face to be seen, the school is now visibly multi-racial, with boys from Uganda and Sri Lanka expressing amazement and even indignation that there could be any question of their suffering discrimination because of the colour of their skin.

The same was true of the

black, seemed to know or care, treating the question as a bit of a joke.

Just why became clear when we sat in on a history lesson. It became evident that so much historical pussy-footing has to go on in multi-racial schools - so as not to upset one race or another, particularly over slavery - that questions of nationality are overlooked, as if lost in the mist of time, with no relevance to the present and still less to the future.

One was reminded a bit of German education after the war, when nationality was also played down. In Germany's

this in Brixton, where we patrolled the streets in the company of a pretty white policewoman who seemed on the best of terms with all the locals, black and white.

Recalling the race riots of 17 years ago, this was a miraculous transformation. Probably hardcore racism can be found simmering under the surface, but it no longer dares to raise its ugly head. Darcus believes there is much more to be done. He wants to see the whole idea of Britishness redefined so that it not only excludes racial prejudice, but positively includes an understanding of im-

extreme demands will only put the clock back. Compromise, knowing when to stop, half measures these are the essence of Britishness and so, even in a multi-racial Britain, they must remain.

Like most of my generation I accept, indeed welcome, the new Caribbean dimension to Britishness, which has greatly enlivened the quality of our national life. Indeed in many respects my new friend Darcus Howe is more British, in the old-fashioned sense, speaking better English, knowing more British history, more widely read in English literature than many British whites.

And if Charles Dickens were to return today, he would, I am sure, feel more at home in colourful Brixton than he would in contemporary Islington. New Labour's favourite haunt.

Give me multi-racial Britain rather than Cool Britannia every time. Nor, I believe, am I alone in this attitude. Compared to so many of today's youth, black youth is to be preferred: more friendly and even more polite. In a phrase, they are more British.

Old England, my England, has gone for ever. New Britain is here to stay. And in these circumstances, I embrace the black dimension as one of the least worrying and most encouraging innovations.

This article originally appeared in the 'Daily Mail'.

And if Charles Dickens were to return today, he would, I am sure, feel more at home in colourful Brixton than he would in contemporary Islington

boys and girls we met at a comprehensive school in Hampstead, North London. But this was less surprising there because black and brown faces seemed almost to outnumber whites, to the point where had there been any discrimination around it would probably have been on the other side. Not that we saw the slightest evidence of that.

Something else, however, did worry me. At a gathering of pupils, we caused a stir by asking those present what nationality they believed themselves to be. None, white as much as

case the aim was to prepare a new German generation for citizenship of a federal Europe.

Doubtless no such conscious aim is at work here. Even so, the diminution of British nationhood, which seems to be involved in the process of creating a multi-racial society, could all too easily have rather similar results.

But apart from this disturbing prospect, I was much encouraged by our journey. Amazing progress towards eliminating the evil of racism has been made. I was particularly struck by the evidence of

persecution as seen through black eyes - a recognition of past wrongs done by the whites to the blacks.

That is asking too much. While it strikes me as reasonable to adapt the idea of Britishness enough to make black Britons feel comfortable here, it is going too far to expect it to be redefined so that white Britons are made to feel uncomfortable and guilty. Such

Conceptual creation - from Rembrandt to the ICA



JOSIE
AILLARD
ARTS DIARY

IT'S tough, being a conceptual artist. Not only is there the difficulty of working in a medium where the idea is all, but there's also the knotty problem of how best to convey your abstract idea to the general public without using landscape, portraiture or still life - which, of course, turns a conceptual artist into a traditional one. Come to think of it, I suppose Rembrandt could be termed conceptual since, strictly speaking, he must have had concepts about what he was painting before he started on a picture. But the fact that he then went for clearly recognisable scenes, such as the Nativity or his wife wading about in a river, meant that everyone ended up reading his art as ordinary art.

Publicly funded galleries that want to show conceptual art find themselves under some sort of obligation to explain it. The Tate Gallery has employed a Curator of Interpretation, who does the job very well; and during its annual feast of conceptualism, known as the Turner Prize, has begun to provide a small chamber screening explanatory videos. For example, last year's show included a pair of ear plugs by conceptualist Cornelia Parker. Now, if you haven't seen the video which told you that these minute sculptures, which looked like tiny champagne corks, were fashioned out of dust garnered by the artist from the Whispering Gallery in St Paul's Cathedral, where would you be?

Take the exhibition of artists Olly and Sizzle, painters with a penchant for wild animals. In terms of straightforward animal portraiture, the work was fairly ordinary, but it was made newsworthy because of its "symbolic concept".

Which was that the animals were encouraged to 'interact' with the paintings by biting, walking or urinating over the canvas. Impressive stuff; however, unless you knew that those big grey soggy splashes were made by elephant pee, or that the minute indentations in the upper right hand corner were actually cheetah bite-marks, the overall effect was severely reduced.

Meanwhile on the Mall in Central London Chadwick and Spector, a conceptual couple from New York City had taken it upon themselves to wow anyone passing by. Whilst Spector (a woman), walked around with a camcorder, Chadwick, a man painted from the waist up with blue and red rectangles, spent a great deal of time drawing on the pavement in chalk. About 200 people were standing around watching, presumably lured by a somewhat disingenuous paragraph in *Time Out* which promised the experience of seeing people dressed up as famous paintings. "Maybe he's meant to be a Mondrian," suggested my husband hopefully. I advanced on Spector to find out more. "We discuss the space in which art can exist, and how decisions are made about how art can be viewed," she said. I sensed I was to experience a conceptual white-out of gargantuan proportions and played for time by asking her about her name. "I just go by Spector," she said, which of course made perfect sense. True conceptual burnies always go by the single noun-clature (think Christo; think Sting).

Meanwhile Chadwick was continuing to draw. "He's doing the floor plan from the ICA next door," explained

Spector helpfully. "The red and blue lines on the pavement correspond with the red and blue paintings on his body. He is a conduit. The questions this piece is posing are about the ephemeral nature of art." Hmm.

She handed me a piece of paper. In entirety, it read: EPHMERAL DRAWINGS NO 1. THIS PERFORMANCE IS BETWEEN AN INSTITUTIONAL SPACE AND A PUBLIC SPACE. WHAT YOU SEE IN AN INSTITUTIONAL SPACE IS DETERMINED BY A FEW, WHEREAS PUBLIC SPACES CAN BE DETERMINED BY THE MANY.

I asked Spector if she thought people might easily twig what was going on. "It's conceptual," she said, patiently. "It's not our place to worry about what the audience does or does not understand. We are artists." Great.

All at once, the floor plan was finished. Spector ran over to join her partner. There was an excited rustle in the crowd. Then both artists walked off. A few people looked at their handouts, presumably hoping for more clues as to why they had just spent an hour watching a conduit in body paint drawing on the pavement. Then everyone drifted away. See what I mean? At least you know where you are with a Rembrandt.

This is not to say that all abstract art is guff. And of course when you understand a bit more about it, the good stuff becomes even better. Last week I felt like decking the official spokesperson on the Official London Sightseeing Boat when we floated past the National Theatre and

he cheerfully introduced it as "the ugliest building in London". It's not when you hear Denys Lasdun explain the concept of the building, which was to design it in steps, thus mirroring the strata of natural rock, the horizontal look of London, and the river itself. Mate.

And sometimes art must be left to explain itself. Witness the experience of Clive Anderson when he opened this year's Summer Exhibition. Not at the Royal Academy, but the Islington Art Circle's exhibition at the Central Library, N1.

The exhibition consisted of two long rows of screens hung with an assortment of landscapes, portraits, sculptures and photographs. Traditional views of London jostled with large nudes and rather extraordinary pieces including a portrait of tabloid hack Richard Littlejohn. Yet the world's most famous ex-barrister was to get none of this.

"Firstly I forgot all my art jokes which I had made up specially for the occasion," admitted Clive. "Then I didn't have a minute to look at any art. Every time I saw something I liked, the artist would pop up at my elbow and tell me how brilliant the picture was. Impossible."

Anyway, he could rest safe in the knowledge that none of the art, which was all for sale, was conceptual. The Tate defines conceptual art as one which "should not be sullied by the materialism of the marketplace... (made of)... low value materials or simply the artist's own actions." So you won't be seeing any at Christie's in the near future.

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21
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Q A dart travels through the air for 0.15 seconds. It travels 2m, calculate its speed.

a) 13.3 m/s
b) 30 m/s
c) 0.3 m/s

Answer in tomorrow's paper (yesterday's answer was b, at its focus)

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Mel Powell

HISTORIANS have overlooked the colossal impact that the 1941 Benny Goodman band had on jazz. They were distracted by the pre-eminence of the Duke Ellington orchestra of the time. Goodman's innovations forced a potent change in the course of the music through two soloists and two arrangers from his band. One of them, Mel Powell, was both soloist and arranger. The other two were the guitar virtuoso Charlie Christian and the arranger Eddie Sauter. Their influence was to permeate the music of the next 50 years.

Like Goodman and Sauter, Powell easily spanned the worlds of jazz and symphony music, and it's difficult to decide in which field he was the most effective. He was a supremely tasteful and scintillating jazz piano soloist, and yet his Pulitzer Prize in 1990 represented only the peak of his eminence in the field of symphony and chamber music.

Powell first heard live jazz when his elder brother Lloyd took him to hear the Goodman band at the Paramount Theatre in New York in 1937. "I became fascinated with it, quite knowledgeable," said Powell, and he directed all his energies to becoming a jazz musician. He succeeded quickly and before he was 17 he worked in New York for such established giants as Bobby Hackett and Georg Brunis and in Muggsy Spanier's big band. He also played as intermission pianist at Nick's Club and for the trumpeter Wingy Manone.

In 1941, when he was 18, he wrote arrangements for one of his idols, the pianist Earl Hines, and that summer Goodman invited him to join the band to replace his regular pianist Teddy Wilson. Powell's abilities were on a par with Goodman's, and, unusually for one of his sidemen, the clarinetist always treated him as an equal.



Powell: scintillating solos

Almost his first job for Goodman in July 1941 was to come to the rescue of the band's new singer, Peggy Lee, who was at the start of her career. Goodman gave her no time to rehearse arrangements that had been written for his earlier singer Helen Forrest, and it was Powell who took the trouble to work through them with her. He also wrote the arrangement for Lee's and Goodman's biggest hit, "Why Don't You Do Right?", and he composed an instrumental success for "Mission to Moscow", that also made a lot of money for Goodman. Amongst his other arrangements the band recorded "The Earl", Powell's dazzling tribute to Earl Hines, his "The Count", for Basie, and "Clarinet", a sprinting marathon for the leader's clarinet.

Although it's now half a century old, the music remains as fresh as it was when first recorded, and this is largely due to the lightness and clarity of Powell's touch. He and Sauter imbued the whole Goodman band with fire and energy, and through them Goodman was happy to place the emphasis on the band sound rather than on the soloists. But he also had small groups drawn from within the band and it was in Goodman's fabulous sextet that Powell the soloist shone through. Everything he played on record at this time is rightly prized by collectors and is regularly re-issued.

Bored with playing the same numbers every night, Powell left Goodman in the summer of 1942 and took a job as a staff musician in the CBS studios. He was drafted in 1943 and joined Glenn Miller, travelling to Europe with the Major's AEF band. He came to England and was billeted in Oldham for a time in 1944 and broadcast on the BBC's *Phonograph* series. When the band was posted to Paris Powell recorded some piano solos there and he and the clarinetist Peanuts Hucko played and recorded with the guitarist Django Reinhardt.

After his discharge in 1945 Powell recorded again with Goodman in New York and the next year moved back to Los Angeles, where he worked with the musical Roman circus that was *Jazz at the Philharmonic*. He married the actress Martha Scott and returned to play in Goodman's bands intermittently, recording more classics with the clarinetist until the end of 1947 and occa-

sionally leading bands of his own. He began to study composition privately in Los Angeles and then at Yale with the German composer Paul Hindemith. He recorded some remarkable albums, one in a trio with the cornettist Ruby Braff, between 1953 and 1955, and during this period worked yet again with Goodman.

When Hindemith returned to Europe to live Powell became a full professor of composition and then head of the Yale composition department. He began writing challenging and exploratory music for orchestra, vocal soloists, chamber groups and electronic instruments. Like his jazz piano playing, his compositions were spare and aphoristic. He became renowned for his mastery of 12-tone techniques.

"I have this old-fashioned idea," he said in 1985, "I still believe that beauty consists in the most music in the shortest space." In 1969 he established the music department of the California Institute for the Arts in Los Angeles.

Powell's travelling activities were curtailed when he developed muscular dystrophy. From then onwards his occasional returns to jazz were reluctant and infrequent. He accompanied Peggy Lee once more at a charity concert in 1982 but, early in the Eighties, he was confined to a wheelchair by the onset of a neurological disorder. Despite the increasing severity of his affliction his passion for music and his wit sparkled undiminished. His wife persuaded him to play and record at a floating jazz festival on the cruise ship *SS Norway* in 1997.

In the spring of 1990 the Los Angeles Philharmonic performed his concerto for two pianos. He was honoured with the Pulitzer Prize for the work after his close friend and the former conductor of the orchestra, André Previn, submitted the concerto for the award without Powell's knowledge. Among his other honours were Brandeis University's Creative Arts Medal, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a commission from the Koussevitzky Music Foundation for the Library of Congress and a National Institute of Arts and Letters grant.

Steve Vose

Melvin Epstein (Mel Powell), pianist, composer and arranger; born New York 12 February 1923; married 1946 Martha Scott (one son, two daughters); died Los Angeles 24 April 1998.



Linh, right, with General Vo Nguyen Giap marking the 20th anniversary of the fall of Saigon, 1995, at the statue of Ho Chi Minh in Ho Chi Minh City

Nguyen Van Linh

"THE GORBACHEV of Vietnam", as he was dubbed in the late 1980s, is not a reputation by which Nguyen Van Linh would like to be remembered.

True, as head of the Vietnamese Communist Party from 1986 to 1991, he launched the country on the path to *doi moi*—renovation, or Vietnam's version of perestroika and the free-market economy. But he later came to regret that, just as in the former Soviet Union, it led to the development of a "red Mafia". As a man who had spent most of his life in revolutionary struggle, Linh expressed growing dismay towards the end of his life about the increase in corruption within the Party and society as a whole.

The rise of Linh to become General Secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party in 1986 was quite unexpected. In fact, until 10 years earlier his name was hardly known. That is because he had always operated under the pseudonym Muoi Cuc. As such, he had fought against colonial rule by the French and been imprisoned by them from 1941 to 1945.

Then, although a northerner by birth, he remained in the south of Vietnam as Deputy Po-

litical Commissar in charge of the struggle for reunification. In other words, he was one of Hanoi's chief political activists in the south throughout the war and it was only after the collapse of the Saigon regime in 1975 that he emerged under his true name with his role revealed. At least, after his long experience in the south of Vietnam, Linh seemed to realise, unlike his colleagues in the Politburo in Hanoi, that society there was different and that the rapid collectivisation of agriculture as well as the nationalisation of private property and industry would lead to economic collapse. He was right, but his views were disregarded in Hanoi, he lost his position as Party Secretary in Ho Chi Minh City in 1982 and was dropped from the Politburo. That made his rehabilitation and elevation to Party General Secretary in December 1986 all the more surprising.

The fact was that the economy of the whole of Vietnam really was in dire straits and drastic measures were called for, particularly since the Soviet Union under the new leadership of Gorbachev was threatening to cut off all aid. Linh became the new broom to sweep away

Communist economic dogma and encourage foreign investment. He also encouraged more intellectual freedom and told writers "not to bend their nibe" in fear of the Party censors. He even wrote articles himself, criticising various bureaucratic practices, under the thinly disguised pseudonym NVL. But then, just as Vietnam was becoming more politically relaxed, the authorities in Peking suppressed the pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square, followed a few months later by the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe, and Linh took fright. Although the open-door economic policy he had introduced remained in place for reasons of sheer necessity, all the trends towards more freedom of speech were soon suppressed and so too was Linh. He was replaced as Party General Secretary in 1991 and spent his remaining years living modestly in Ho Chi Minh City.

Judy Stowe

Nguyen Van Cuc (Nguyen Van Linh), politician; born Hanoi, Vietnam 1 July 1915; General Secretary, Communist Party of Vietnam 1986-91; married; died Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam 27 April 1998.

Christiane Rochefort

CHRISTIANE ROCHEFORT was in many ways born before her time. She was one of the earliest militant French feminists, during a smug post-war period when it took courage to question and defy the conventions of French family life.

After working as a journalist and film critic, she wrote her first novel, *Le Repos du guerrier* (1958), when she was already 41. It created a scandal in *bien-pensant* French society, for in it she attacked the very foundation of marriage and the duplicity of men. Roger Vadim in 1962 adapted it for the screen, the film starring Brigitte Bardot, who plays a respectable married girl longing to break free from her bourgeois existence. She does so with a vengeance, falling for a cynical, suicidal alcoholic. Bardot, breaking free from her own stereotype, considered it one of her best parts. It was translated into 20 languages, including English, under the title *Warrior's Rest*, in 1960. The author's passionate anger and outspoken language revealed a keen intuition of events to come, starting with the spiritual and moral revolution following the student rebellions in May 1968.

Rochefort's next novel was also before its time: *Les Petits enfants du siècle* (1961, translated in 1963 as *Joyanne and the Welfare*) treated with outrageous frankness the plight of the urban, unemployed young in the working-class suburbs of Paris, a theme frequently written about now. It won the Prix du Roman Populaire.

In 1963 she published *Les Stances à Sophie* (translated in 1966 as *Cats Don't Care for Money*), a combined attack on morals, marriage and money. Her 1969 novel *Printemps au parking* found no English publisher, possibly because of the unexpected ferocity with which the theme, male homosexuality, is handled. Again Rochefort goes to the heart of her subject with a knife, and makes no concessions. It is one of the best novels ever written by a woman on this subject, so prone to being sentimentalised in the *Swinging Sixties* idealisation of male eroticism. She was able to write convincingly about other forms of eroticism in *Quand tu vas vers les femmes* (1982).

But Rochefort's biggest triumph came in 1988, when she won the Prix Médicis for *La Porte du fond* ("Rear Exit"), another attack upon the values of

family life, and a cruel exposure of incest. It is composed in a nervous, dislocated style that conveys perfectly the confusions of a girl in her early teens who is raped by her father and then by his brother, a "benevolent" uncle.

The novel starts with a family court, where the girl, her mother and father, separated, are agreeing to a reconciliation. The doctress tells her hitherto obedient, dutiful daughter: "Say good morning to your father." The girl, only seven years old, says flatly "No!" and her mother slaps her across the face. That first assault is the daughter's liberation.

The father is increasingly attracted towards the child, and at first she finds his company much more exciting and entertaining than her social mother's. But the inevitable violence occurs, and these forced sexual attentions arouse in the girl feelings of hatred, shame and revenge. Her spiritual and moral deterioration shows in the new coarse language she uses (her favourite word is "merde"). It is a conflict where she can only be a loser.

Her father tries to gain her confidence by saying that "this sort of thing" happens between fathers and daughters in all families. The girl's gradual decline is painfully evoked. She tells us: "The struggle lasted seven years. I lost every battle. But not the war." Yet there is nothing grim or sordid in Rochefort's firm treatment of this disturbing theme.

She writes of human failures, human moralities, human desires with imagination, sympathy and tenderness, though always with an uncompromising frankness that makes the reader trust her judgement completely. It is a great pity that this remarkable novel has never been translated into English.

In 1997, Rochefort published two slim volumes, *Conversations sans paroles* and *Adieu, Adieu*. In the former, she writes:

Your Creation, Lord, and I'm sorry to have to tell you this, is a bundle of errors. You should have asked me for advice. I'm full of good ideas. And I'm not the only one—I've loads of friends who think I do.

Christiane Rochefort had come full circle, well ahead of her time.

James Kirkup

Christiane Renée Rochefort, novelist; born Paris 17 July 1917; died Le Pradet, France 24 April 1998.

Donald Findlay

DONALD FINDLAY was a leading authority on church architecture, decoration and liturgy and sometime Deputy Secretary of the Church of England's Council for the Care of Churches.

He was born in Edinburgh in 1950, the son of a professional soldier and great-grandson of J.R. Findlay, former proprietor of the *Scottish National Portrait Gallery*. Donald Findlay's mother, Ailsa Findlay, was the sister of Ian Lindsay, a distinguished Scots architect who specialised in the repair of historic build-

ings. The young Donald was sent to Harrow and might have followed in his uncle's footsteps—old buildings always interested him—but he read English at university (at St Andrews, having failed to get into Cambridge).

Findlay's career was singularly uneventful, yet filled with achievements. In 1973, he joined the staff of the Council for the Care of Churches (CCC), where he remained until his untimely death. Initially, he served as Pastoral Measure Officer, his principal task being to prepare detailed reports on churches facing possible redun-

dancy. Findlay turned what could have been dry documents into scholarly and lively essays. Indeed, his reports form the definitive accounts of many important churches and, in some cases, their obituaries. During the 1970s, the tide of redundancy was running high and many fine buildings were needlessly destroyed, along with their contents.

Findlay was appalled by the philistinism of many in the Church, but he believed that the Church of England's procedures could and should be reformed to protect historic buildings and re-

tain them in active use. He worked with the Bishop of Chichester's commission on the faculty jurisdiction (which alone addressed the issues of care of over 12,000 Anglican churches rather than listed building control), was for many years clerk to the organs advisory committee of the CCC, and was a trustee of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust and of the Ely Stained Glass Museum. He also served on the Executive Committee of the Georgian Group and the Victorian Society's Buildings Sub-Committee.

The deafness which afflict-

ed him from childhood made Findlay seem reticent, even remote, but he was warm to company and was unfailingly courteous and good-humoured, even when dealing with the most iconoclastic of persons. He loved music (especially early music), sang well and played the organ competently. He was devoted to the Grosvenor Chapel in Mayfair, London, working hard to keep that delightful Georgian building in use. Its style of worship, firmly Catholic but entirely Anglican, was much to his taste and it was in the chapel that his Requiem Mass was celebrated.

Findlay was a man of simple faith and great loyalty. He was committed to the work of the CCC and wrote its 75th anniversary history, *The Protection of our English Churches* (1996), along with *All Hallowes, London Wall* (a history, 1985) and many other church guides and histories, and was working on a book on Georgian churches. It is hoped that his manuscript— he was a perfectionist and had spent many years on the project—will be edited and published.

Findlay's closest friend was Michael Gillingham, a leading authority on organs and latter-

ly Chairman of the Advisory Board for Redundant Churches. The two men shared a substantial 18th-century house in Spitalfields, which they restored, and a wide circle of friends. The arrangement began soon after Findlay's arrival in London; and simply continued. Their lunch guests might be bishops—or students in need of a meal.

Findlay lived a quiet life, but one which affected the lives of many for the better. He threw his energies into his work and gave generously, and privately, to many good causes.

Kenneth Powell



Findlay: a perfectionist

Donald Ian Findlay, architect; born Edinburgh 20 June 1950; died London 14 April 1998.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS
LOWE: William Thornton, On 22 April 1998, peacefully, in hospital, and aged 82 years, the beloved husband of Dorothy, dearly loved father of Rita, Christine and Roger and a dear father-in-law and much-loved grandfather. Formerly of West Hill Secondary School, St Albans, Herts. Buried at St Albans Cemetery, St Albans, Herts. on 24 April 1998 at 11.45 a.m. Family flowers only, please. Donations if desired to either the British Heart Foundation or Cancer Research Centre Hospital, Enfield, and donations to Jonathan Alcock & Sons Ltd, Brook House, Brook Road, Chesham, Bucks HP8 1PP. Tel: 01628 51611/25 2997.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Queen and Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, will be married on 10 June 1998 at 12.30 p.m. in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. The bride is Princess Diana, Duchess of Cornwall. The groom is Prince Charles, Prince of Wales. The ceremony will be broadcast on television and radio. The wedding will be a private ceremony. The bride and groom will be accompanied by their parents and other close family members. The wedding will be a private ceremony. The bride and groom will be accompanied by their parents and other close family members. The wedding will be a private ceremony. The bride and groom will be accompanied by their parents and other close family members.

Changing of the Guard
The Changing of the Guard ceremony will take place on 28 April 1998 at 11.30 a.m. in front of Buckingham Palace. The ceremony will be broadcast on television and radio. The Changing of the Guard ceremony will take place on 28 April 1998 at 11.30 a.m. in front of Buckingham Palace. The ceremony will be broadcast on television and radio.

BIRTHS
Miss Ann Margaret, actress, 57; Mr Ian Beer, former Headmaster, Harrow School, 67; Professor Hugh Bental, cardiologist, 78; Mr Michael Beazley, psychoanalyst and cricketer, 55; Brynna Carney, of Lour, educationist, 73; Sir Roy Cohen, former chairman, Remploy, 57; Commandant Elizabeth Craig-McCoy, former director, WRNS, 71; Dr Kenneth Kaunda, former president of Zambia, 74; Miss Nicola Lufanu, composer, 51; Sir John Leonard, former High Court judge, 72; Earl Lloyd George of Dwyer, underwriter, 74; Dr Michael Longfield, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Exeter, 70; The Right Rev Morris Madocks, Honorary Assistant Bishop, Chichester, 70; Mr William Moody, former Chief Constable, 67; Mr John Thorn, writer and former Headmaster, Winchester College, 73; Mr Gary Weston, chairman, Associated British Foods, 71; Mrs Helen Williams, former High Mistress, St Paul's Girls' School, 60; Mr Kenneth Williams, Chief Constable, Norfolk, 54; Mr James Wray MP, 60.

Anniversaries
Births: Jean Andrian, artist and engraver, 1907; Sir James Erasmus Wilson, dermatologist, who, at his own expense, brought "Cleopatra's Needle" to London, 1869; Lionel Barrymore (Blythe), actor, 1878.
Deaths: Benito Amilcare Andrea Mussolini, executed by Italian partisans, 1945; Francis Bacon, painter, 1992. On this day the foundation stone of Salisbury Cathedral was laid, 1220; Pope Clement XI issued a bull condemning freemasonry, 1738; the

crew of HMS *Bounty*, led by Fletcher Christian, mutinied, 1789. Today is the Feast Day of St Cronan of Ross, St Cyril of Turoy, St Louis Grenier of Montfort, St Pampilius of Sulmona, St Peter Mary Chanel, St Pollin, Saints Theodora and Didymus, St Valera and St Vitalis. Today is also the first day of the Muslim New Year.

Lectures
National Gallery: Richard Stemp, "Sculpture and Painting: Italy: Costa and Mainieri, The Virgin and Child Enthroned between a Soldier Saint, and Saint John the Baptist", 1 p.m.
Tate Gallery: James Heath, "A World Beyond Description: Joseph Wright of Derby's *Jesus in the Temple*", 1 p.m.
Exeter University: Professor Christopher Moody, "Organic Chemistry: the practice of wealth creation", 1.10 p.m.

The Right Rev Trevor Huddleston
A Requiem Eucharist will be held for Bishop Trevor Huddleston at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London W1, on Thursday 30 April at 8.30 p.m.

Luncheons
HM Government
Mr George Robertson MP Secretary of State for Defence, was host at a luncheon held yesterday at Lancaster House, London SW1, in honour of Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence of the State of Kuwait.

LAW REPORT: 28 APRIL 1998

Citing of old cases could be dangerous

Regina v L, Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Justice Henry, Mr Justice Keene and Judge Colston QC) 7 April 1998

WHILST cases decided before the Sexual Offences Act 1985 might still be cited by way of general principles, they should not be cited with regard to the appropriate level of sentencing for offences of indecent assault.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appellant's appeal against a sentence of two years' imprisonment imposed following his conviction of one offence of indecent assault.

At the time of the offence the victim was aged nine, and the appellant was aged 52. He stood in position of trust to her because of his four-year relationship with her mother.

Patrick Roche (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellant.

Lord Justice Henry said that the judge had sentenced the appellant on the basis that the offence had been a single isolated act, although aggravated by the girl's youth and the breach of trust.

It had been submitted for the appellant that *R v Demel* [1997] 2 Cr App R (S) had laid down that there was an "established sentencing tariff" in a case such as the present of between 13 and 18 months' imprisonment.

The Sexual Offences Act 1985 had increased the maximum sentence for indecent assault on a woman over 13 from two to 10 years' imprisonment. It was imperative to remember the point made by Judge J in *R v Henderson* (1991) 12 Cr App R (S) 589: This court of course takes due notice of decisions in similar cases but recognises that the circumstances of all offences of indecency vary infinitely in their different circumstances.

To that the court would respectfully add that sentences in earlier cases must also be viewed against the statutory framework which was in force at the time when the offences were committed. It appeared that counsel might not always have had that in mind when addressing the court in appeals against sentence when the Crown had not been represented.

Examination of the authorities to which the court had been referred in *Demel* showed that two had been decided under the old, pre-1985 law, and that the remainder had relied heavily on them. In *R v Vinson* (1983) 3 Cr App R (S) 315, a two year sentence had been reduced to one of nine months. There was a real danger in such cases, decided before the passing of the Sexual Offences Act 1985, being cited today in support of the appropriate level of sentencing as

opposed to highlighting general principles.

In *R v Smith* (1986) 8 Cr App R (S) 325, a sentence of two years was again reduced to 9 months. It was clear from the judgment in that case, although not from the headnote, that the offences had occurred prior to the coming into force of the 1985 Act. In *R v Gibbons* (1988) 9 Cr App R (S) 306, Lord Justice Keene said that it did not necessarily follow that, because the maximum sentence had been increased, the principles applicable in *Vinson* and *Smith* were not still equally applicable. Insofar as he might be taken to have meant that the principles of the level of sentencing were not or should not be affected by the increase in the statutory maximum, the court respectfully but profoundly disagreed.

The authorities could not, when read in the light of the

statutory framework in force at the material time, be said to provide a tariff sentencing bracket at the level referred to in *Demel*. To that extent the court respectfully disagreed with that decision, which might need to be regarded as confined to its own facts.

It was not the purpose of the present judgment to seek to lay down guidelines for sentencing in cases of indecent assault. In most cases, however, the personal circumstances of the offender would have to take second place behind the plain duty of the court to protect the victims of sexual attacks, and to reflect the clear intention of Parliament that such offences were to be met with greater severity than might have been the case in former years when the position of the victim might not have been so clearly focused in the public eye.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

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Shareholders ready to oust Biotech chiefs

By Terry Macalister

LEADING shareholders in British Biotech may demand an extraordinary general meeting to engineer removal of top management at the troubled company.

Key investors said they were "continued to be concerned" despite a public promise from British Biotech yesterday that it was preparing a detailed circular to set the record straight.

They said an EGM would be a vehicle to remove senior executives including Dr Keith McCullagh, the chief executive, or to force a change in corporate direction.

Shares in the company have plummeted to 52.5p from a high of £3 in early 1996 when British Biotech shot to prominence on the back of its cancer drug, Marimastat. This has meant capitalisation has fallen from nearly £2bn to £300m, although this is still sizeable considering it only employs 400 staff.

The Oxford-based company has been mauled by a range of setbacks, ranging from revelations of London Stock Exchange and the US Securities & Exchange Commission inquiries, as well as controversial share sales and staff departures.

In addition the company, once a contender for the FTSE-100 index, has seen a research alliance with Glaxo Wellcome collapse and the forced delay of its Zucutax drug launch.

The sacking last week of Dr Andrew Millar, the head of clinical trials, has escalated investor concern about the company's activities. Dr Millar, an important contact for many investors, was removed for alleged breach of confidentiality.

He had met senior officials from Perpetual, which holds a 9 per cent stake in British Biotech, and expressed concerns about the commercial direction of his own company.

Dr Millar believed British Biotech was expanding much too fast on the presumption that trials for the pancreatic drug Zucutax and Marimastat would be successful. He wanted a more measured pace of development.

A statement from British Biotech repeated its view that "matters raised by Dr Andrew Millar had no substance or reflected purely personal opinions".

It regretted the "damage being done to the company and its shareholders by the repetition of these allegations". British Biotech said they would be refuted in depth through a circular now under preparation.

The paper to shareholders would outline the company's approach to strategy, update research and development plus give a statement of year-end cash balances to 30 April 1998. It is expected within the next four weeks.

The company will not comment on suggestions that the London Stock Exchange is "again" investigating the timing of shares sales worth £618,000 by Dr McCullagh in January 1995.

The company admits an investigation into this issue was undertaken in the same year and no found there was "no issue to raise". The London Stock Exchange also declined to comment in line with a policy of not making statements in the middle of a disciplinary review.

The SEC is looking at the wording of press releases put out by British Biotech in November 1995 and May the following year. The company confirms this investigation is under way.

Unsettled within the investment community has also been stirred by revelations that the European Medicines Evaluation Agency notified British Biotech in May last year it had five objections to Zucutax.

Two statements put out by the company a week later on trial results and the building up of a management team, were seen by outsiders as highly positive.

Optimism had surrounded the biotech



Under fire: Dr Keith McCullagh, above, may be removed by shareholders. The 53-year-old chief executive has embittered former staff members, one of whom described him as having the intransigent qualities "similar to Mrs Thatcher".

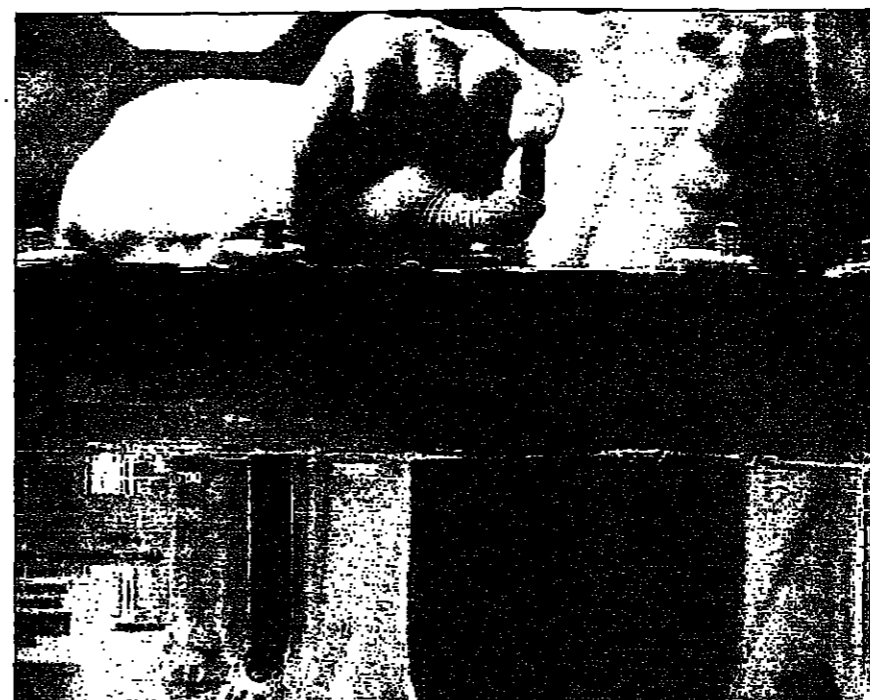
company since 1994 and management tapped into this by mounting two successful rights issues, in spring 1994 and summer 1996, which raised £230m.

With shares now close to the floor, James Culverwell, pharmaceutical analyst with Merrill Lynch, said continuing allegations were undermining what remained of the City's confidence.

He explained: "This whole saga is causing great uncertainty and the market likes that less than anything. People read the stories which are now being revealed by newspapers and wonder what the real situation is."

Culverwell believes the key issue is the success of the drugs. He adds: "At the end of the day the company will live or breathe by the value of its technology and that is what the market needs comfort on."

Brian White, analyst at BT Alex Brown, said neither British Biotech nor the City was coming out of the whole affair smelling of roses. "The investment community was wholly unrealistic about the past value they



Key issues in the crisis

□ The Securities & Exchange Commission is investigating public statements put out by British Biotech on 30 November 1995 and 21 May 1996, regarding the clinical process of its Marimastat drug.

□ The Stock Exchange is understood to be looking at the timing of share transactions by Keith McCullagh, Biotech's chief executive. He sold shares worth £618,000 on 17 January 1995. A month later the company revealed delays in the development of its Batimastat drug. Biotech says it "cannot comment" except to say the issue was investigated by the Stock Exchange in 1995 and the Exchange found "there was no issue to raise".

□ Dr Andrew Millar questioned his superiors' business plan of spending £50m a year. He deemed it out of proportion to the chances of the drugs being found successful in trials under way. British Biotech dismisses Dr Millar's concerns as having "no substance or reflecting purely personal opinions".

□ British Biotech put out statements announcing the results of drug trials and plans to establish a commercial structure in 1997. These statements, perceived positively by outsiders, came days after the European Medicines Evaluation Agency told the company it had five objections to its pancreatic drug, Zucutax. Biotech said the objections were "part of a normal regulatory review process" and the issues had been addressed.

Nat Grid sacks NWM

By Michael Harrison

NATIONAL Grid has sacked NatWest Markets as joint broker following its change of ownership, the departure of senior personnel and a series of "sell" notes from NatWest analysts on the Grid's telecoms arm, Energis.

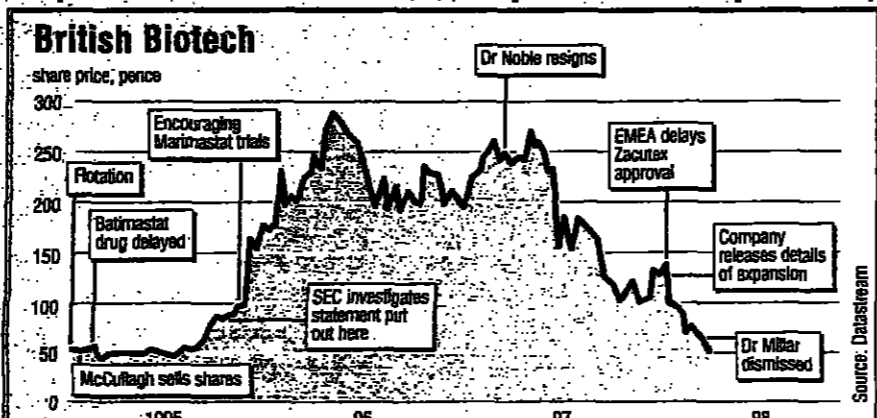
NatWest Markets' equities business, which was formally taken over by Bankers Trust at the weekend and subsumed into BT Alex Brown, the bank's world-wide investment banking arm, is likely to be replaced by HSBC Securities.

A Grid spokesman conceded that the sell notes on Energis, issued by NatWest's telecoms analysts had been an "irritant" to their relationship. Energis was floated at 29p and tipped as a sell by NatWest at 38p and again recently. The shares closed last night at 67.25p, valuing Energis at more than £2bn on a fully-diluted basis.

Although the Grid sold 51 per cent of the ordinary shares in Energis, its stake would rise to 75 per cent in the event of a bid with the conversion of preference shares.

However, the Grid spokesman insisted the departure of NatWest was part of a broader overhaul of the Grid's financial advisers. The Grid's other joint broker is Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, which also acts as its investment bank adviser and was broker on the Energis flotation.

HSBC Securities, meanwhile, arranged the Grid's recent £400m bond issue. The issue was announced alongside a £770m special dividend. This prompted criticism in some quarters with investors confused about the Grid's strategy.



Mr Yen escapes with a pay cut

JAPAN'S "Mr Yen", the vice Finance Minister for International Affairs, Eisuke Sakakibara, was among 112 Ministry of Finance (MoF) officials punished yesterday for accepting lavish entertainment from private firms.

But few analysts felt Japan's most influential financial bureaucrat was in danger of losing his job over the affair.

Hikaru Matsunaga, the Finance Minister, announced the action against Mr Sakakibara and the other officials in a statement at the end of an internal investigation covering over 1,050 MoF staff who had contacts with the private sector over the past five years.

The statement said Mr Sakakibara, whose comments influence currency markets around the world, received a "warning" and would take a voluntary pay cut of 20 per cent for a month. It said he was entertained about 20 times over a five-year period but the amount of money involved was not given.

Some officials were entertained more than 60 times. Of the 112 punished, one received

the highest punishment of suspension from duties; 17 received pay cuts; 14, including Sakakibara, received warnings; 22 received admonishments; 33 received a written caution and 25 received a verbal caution.

Mr Matsunaga said Atsushi Nagano, the director-general of the ministry's Securities Bureau, and Takashi Sugii, deputy director-general of the Banking Bureau, had resigned as a result of the affair. Earlier this month, the *Asahi Shimbun* said Mr Nagano had accepted entertainment of ¥4.7m (£22,000).

Two MoF officials have hanged themselves over the scandal, which some reports said involved winning and dining at restaurants where the waitresses were no underwear.

It was the latest blow for the powerful ministry, which has been battered by scandal recently. Four MoF employees were arrested for accepting excessive winning and dining from financial institutions, ultimately forcing the former Finance Minister, Hiroshi Mitsuoka, and Vice Finance Minister to resign.

— Reuters

Debenhams plans more new stores

By Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

DEBENHAMS, the department store group which was demerged from Burton in January, shrugged off the gloom on the high street yesterday with a sharp increase in profits and an aggressive store opening programme that will create 4,000 new jobs.

Debenhams is to open six new stores in Weymouth, Carlisle, Sunderland, Oxford, York and Milton Keynes.

These are in addition to the 10 new stores previously announced and will bring the total number of outlets to around 100.

"We are only in 60 per cent of the towns and cities we would like to be in," said Terry Green, Debenhams' chief executive, who said the company did not yet have branches in Birmingham, Liverpool, Leeds city centre and Newcastle.

He denied the group was expanding at the wrong time in the cycle even though other re-

tailers have recently said they plan to cut back their store opening programmes due to the unseasonable rents now being charged by landlords.

He claimed Debenhams was able to negotiate good terms with shopping centre developers who were keen to have Debenhams as an anchor tenant. The store opening programme will cost £235m.

Mr Green was speaking as Debenhams announced a 16.3 per cent rise in half year profits to £77m. Like-for-like sales improved by 5.3 per cent, which analysts said was a good performance in a difficult retail environment.

"Conditions on the high street have been very volatile and there are quite clearly winners and losers," Mr Green said. "We had windfalls last year, now we have higher interest rates. But we are cautiously optimistic."

Mr Green said the group's strategy of driving sales and margins was on track. It was speeding up expansion plans to drive the business forward, and

there would be more to come. The company did not disclose its current trading figures but said they were in line with expectations. Analysts estimated that sales were up by around 4 per cent on a same store basis. Debenhams shares, which have performed poorly since the demerger, jumped 26.5p to 374p on the news.

John Richards, retail analyst at BT Alex Brown, the new name for NatWest Securities, said: "This was a very strong performance in a difficult market. The Debenhams format, with its wide choice of brands is proving successful."

The stock market was pleasantly surprised by Debenhams' figures after becoming nervous about retail stocks in the wake of poor performances from other UK retailers, including Next and Laura Ashley.

Debenhams sales on continuing operations were up by 8 per cent to £770m. There was a maiden interim dividend of 3.9p.

The group also announced three more franchise outlets overseas.

FTSE 100 dives on rate fears

By Lea Paterson

MORE THAN £25bn was wiped off the value of UK blue-chip shares yesterday as the FTSE 100 tumbled by 140 points on US interest rate worries.

Market sentiment was not helped by overnight share falls in the Far East and renewed fears about the impact of the Asian crisis on corporate earnings.

Ian Williams, strategist at Panmure Gordon, said: "Everything hinges on what happens on Wall Street overnight. But in my opinion there are too many people being cautious for there to be a crash."

At lunchtime, the US Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 188.3 at 8,876.29.

Back in the UK, the FTSE 100 share index closed at 5,722.4, down 141.5 but slightly off the day's low of 5,699.9.

Financial stocks were among the heaviest losers, with Halifax down 44p to 787.5p and Lloyds TSB down 30p to 901p.

Traders said that comments from leading US officials —

Retail chief nets £1m

SIR GEOFF Mulcahy, chief executive of Kingfisher, the Woolworths to B&Q retailer, has confirmed his membership of the £1m-a-year club with a 19 per cent rise in total pay to £1.4m, writes Nigel Cope.

Sir Geoff, who has consistently been one of Britain's highest-paid retailers, saw his £665,000 salary boosted by a £680,000 annual bonus and a £111,000 payment under the company's long-term incentive scheme. The details were included in the company's annual report, published yesterday.

The company defended the payments saying: "People only need to look at the record results announced recently and the company's share price performance." In the year to 31 January 1998, the period covered by the latest annual report, Kingfisher's shares rose 41.6 per cent and have risen sharply since.

Jim Hodgkinson, the former head of B&Q who left the group this month to become chief executive of New Look, the fashion retailer, saw his pay rise to £945,000, including bonuses of more than £500,000.

Yesterday in the markets

STOCK MARKETS

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5722.40	-141.50	-2.41	6150.50	4361.20	3.61
FTSE 250	2564.00	-36.30	-1.42	2805.00	2384.20	2.91
FTSE 100	2774.10	-38.80	-1.39	2830.70	2113.30	3.48
FTSE 100	2774.10	-38.80	-1.39	2830.70	2113.30	3.48
FTSE 100	2774.10	-38.80	-1.39	2830.70	2113.30	3.48
FTSE 100	2774.10	-38.80	-1.39	2830.70	2113.30	3.48
FTSE 100	2774.10	-38.80	-1.39	2830.70	2113.30	3.48
FTSE 100	2774.10	-38.80	-1.39	2830.70	2113.30	3.48
FTSE 100	2774.10	-38.80	-1.39	2830.70	2113.30	3.48
FTSE 100	2774.10	-38.80	-1.39	2830.70	2113.30	3.48

INTEREST RATES

Instrument	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	Long bond	1 yr est
UK	7.50	0.97	7.44	0.98	5.92	-1.75	5.84	-1.93	
US	5.50	0.16	5.51	0.53	5.76	-0.87	6.05	-0.92	
Japan	0.85	0.04	0.85	0.10	1.77	-0.88	5.58	-1.02	
Germany	5.84	0.43	5.94	0.55	5.03	-0.91	5.38	-1.13	

CURRENCIES

S/E

Year	Rate
1978	1.680
1979	1.650
1980	1.620
1981	1.580
1982	1.650

D/M/E

Year	Rate
1978	2.050
1979	2.000
1980	2.000
1981	1.950
1982	2.050

/E

Year	Rate
1978	2.25
1979	2.15
1980	2.10
1981	2.05
1982	2.25

Pound				Dollar			
	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago		at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6730	+0.55c	1.6240	Sterling	0.5977	-0.20p	0.6158
D-Mark	2.9903	+0.27p	2.8063	D-Mark	1.7697	-0.43p	1.7282
Yen	221.01	+0.27s	205.97	Yen	132.13	+0.14p	126.86
E index	106.00	+0.10	98.70	S Index	109.60	+0.30	106.00

OTHER INDICATORS

	at 5 pm	Date	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago	Next day	
Brent Oil (\$)	13.22	-0.02	17.92		GDP	114.80	2.80	111.48	Apr
Gold (\$)	310.35	-2.30	339.65		RPI	760.80	3.50	155.35	Apr
Silver (\$)	6.22	-0.10	4.74		Base Rates	7.25	8.00		

www.bloomberg.com/uk source: Bloomberg

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.4893	Malta (lira)	0.6300
Austria (schilling)	20.37	Mexican (nuevo peso)	12.82
Belgium (franc)	92.90	Netherlands (guilder)	3.2614
Canada (\$)	2.3268	New Zealand (\$)	2.9007
Cyprus (pound)	0.8478	Norway (krone)	12.16
Denmark (krone)	11.14	Portugal (escudo)	294.46
Finland (markka)	8.9992	Saudi Arabia (rithal)	0.0695
France (franc)	9.7367	Singapore (S)	2.5344
Germany (mark)	2.9123	Spain (peseta)	246.12
Greece (drachma)	503.75	Switzerland (franc)	8.0806
Hong Kong (\$)	12.51	Sweden (krona)	12.58
Ireland (pound)	1.1477	Switzerland (franc)	2.4284
India (rupee)	60.78	Thailand (baht)	53.59
Israel (shekel)	5.7849	Turkey (lira)	403853
Italy (lira)	2.081	USA (\$)	1.6272
Japan (yen)	216.02		
Malaysia (ringgit)	5.9904		

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

Debenhams holds its own

THE BOUNCE in Debenhams' share price yesterday was partly due to relief that no profits downgrades were necessary after an impressive set of half-year results. Trading on the high street is difficult and retailers are being punished for the slightest slip-up. But Debenhams, which only demerged from Burton in January, appears to be holding its own.

Profits on continuing operations were up 16 per cent to £77m in the first half, though a separate figure was produced on a pro-forma basis, which included three months of the multiple operations now under the Arcadia banner. Like-for-like sales improved 5.3 per cent on a margin improved by 0.4 of a percentage point. This may not seem spectacular but it will look enviable when compared with some clothing retailers yet to report.

All this will be welcomed by investors, who must have been concerned by the performance of Debenhams. After shooting up to 426.5p in the early weeks, the shares have consistently underperformed the department store sector. Even after yesterday's 26.5p jump to 374p they are below their close on their first day's trading as a separate company.

This may be about to change. The group's mix of well-known brands and well-designed own-label ranges is proving popular and Debenhams has an aggressive store opening programme with 10 new stores due over the next five years. The programme includes branches in cities like Birmingham and Liverpool where Debenhams has no representation. These openings will add £30m of sales and 22 per cent to the selling space. The danger is Debenhams is expanding at the wrong time, when property rents are high, but it claims it is getting good deals from developers.

All the margin improvement was due a reduction in the cost base. This will rise as the opening programme is accelerated but the key will be to improve sales. On full-year profit forecasts of £134m the shares trade on a forward rating of 16. This is a discount to the sector and, if not hugely exciting, it is relatively low risk. Good value up to around the 420p mark.

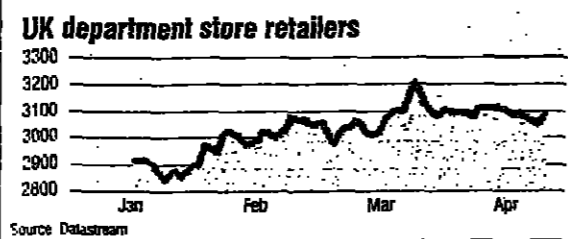
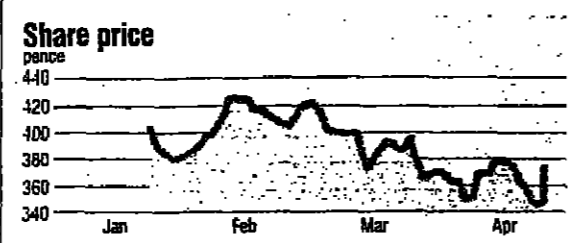
Scramble for Thomson

THE FLOTATION of Thomson Travel Group has caused the sort of rush normally associated with the scramble for last-minute cut-price package holidays.

Debenhams: At a glance

Market value: £1.46m, share price 374 (+26.5p)

Trading record	96/97	97/98	96/97	97/98
Turnover (£m)	1,341	1,080	714	770
Pre-tax profits (£m)	135.8	118.1	66.3	77.1
Earnings per share (p)	-	-	11.8	13.8
Dividends per share (p)	-	-	N/A	3.9



Source: Datastream

So far, 350,000 private investors – and rising – have registered an interest in buying shares in the largest tour operator in the UK, which also owns 800-odd Lunn Poly travel agents.

The strength of the group's brand name has got something to do with it. But the main reason has been the offer of 10 per cent discounts on all Thomson's holidays for punters who subscribe for at least £500 worth of shares.

On the face of it, the average family stands to save hundreds of pounds a year, although real savings may be much less than that, as the discount only applies on brochure prices. Nevertheless, this shareholder perk is definitely worth having and, for a regular traveller, could justify £500 in Thomson on its own.

There are other good reasons why Sid should book a seat on the Thomson flotation. Its share rating does not look demanding. Thomson has been valued at between 140p to 170p, or £1.4bn to £1.7bn. The betting is the final price will be towards the upper end of that scale, although that will not be decided until after the deadline for applications from private investors on 7 May.

Assuming a final price of say 165p, that puts Thomson on a prospective p/e ratio of less than 18, compared with arch rival Airtours on a forward multiple of 23. It is true that Airtours' shares have risen on takeover speculation but their strong growth has also been stimulated by a buoyant UK holiday market. The spectre of 1995, when an industry price war decimated profits, could come back to haunt Thomson but the big players show no signs of returning to their bad old ways.

Thomson has also been relatively slow to expand overseas but its independence will surely give it the opportunity to hit the acquisition trail aggressively.

Thomson should prove a good long-term bet, although if the float proves as popular with the financial institutions as it has with investors there should also be an opportunity to make a quick profit.

Allcroft deal off at last

IT HAS taken a long time to stoke his furnace, but Thomas the Tank Engine has finally been sold by Reed Elsevier. One of the most protracted corporate deals of recent times has seen the business go for a knockdown price of £13.5m to Britt Allcroft.

Britt Allcroft was always going to be the natural buyer for Thomas. It already produces television, films and a whole range of merchandise based on the world's most famous steam engine.

Thomas brings in £1.2m a year, before overheads, and the deal is likely to enhance earnings for Britt, although only mildly at first. The group can also focus on other lines of children's characters, including a new series of Captain Pugwash, due in the autumn, and a TV debut for a popular US elephant called Mumfie, to be screened by Fox.

Britt Allcroft's shares rose 11p to 265p yesterday, putting the group on a forward price-earnings ratio of around 33 this year, falling to 24 the year after. The Thomas deal looks attractive but the group's ratings appear stretched. High enough.

Siebe pays £439m for Eurotherm

SIEBE agreed to buy Eurotherm for £439m in cash and stock to make the UK electronics company the world's largest maker of controls for assembly lines and other industrial systems.

Siebe offered 0.2322 of its shares and 140p in cash for a total of 460p for each Eurotherm share, a 32 per cent premium to Eurotherm's closing share price on 24 April.

The company said the acquisition pushed it past Honeywell in the \$200bn (£112bn) industrial control market, giving it a 15 per cent share to Honeywell's 14 per cent. Eurotherm is the world's biggest temperature control maker.

"The numbers certainly seem to stack up," said Michael Blogg, an analyst at Charterhouse Tilney Securities. "In industrial terms the logic is reasonable."

Siebe's chief executive, Allen Yurko, said in a statement: "This acquisition complements Siebe's existing activities in the temperature controller market. It establishes the group as a global leader."

He said the acquisition will enhance Siebe's earnings in the first year, excluding amortisation of goodwill. Analysts said cost savings would be between £10m and £14m without heavy loss of jobs.

It is the latest in a string of acquisitions by Siebe. On April 15, it agreed to pay \$101m for Simulation Sciences to expand a line of software that helps companies control costs.

That came less than two months after Siebe agreed to pay \$375m for the Irvine, California-based Wonderware Corp, which sells software that controls and monitors factory processes. Wonderware's and SimSci's products run on Microsoft's Windows operating system.

Shares in Eurotherm rose 105p to 453.5p. They had fallen from 438p a year ago to 348.5p on Friday. Eurotherm has suffered from the strength of the

pound, which pared operating profits last year by £10m. Half of Eurotherm's £200m of sales go to continental Europe.

Claes Hultman, Eurotherm's chief executive, said that by joining Siebe he would expect Eurotherm to roughly double its historic sales growth of between 4 per cent and 6 per cent.

"Eurotherm is a highly successful portfolio niche player – it is expensive to set up distribution in North America and the Far East," he said.

Mr Hultman said the company had consulted with other possible candidates before opting for Siebe's offer. He declined to name them.

— Bloomberg



New adventures: Britt Allcroft will pay £13.5m for long-term rights to Thomas the Tank Engine

Reed agrees to sell Thomas

By Andrew Verity

THOMAS the Tank Engine was finally prepared for a new adventure yesterday as Reed Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch publisher, agreed to sell its long-term rights to Thomas for £13.5m.

Britt Allcroft, the small British company which has developed the television films of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, will pay cash for the rights to sell the Thomas brand on everything except his books.

Thomas began life in The Railway Series of books in 1945 by the Reverend W Awdry, later developed into a 40-book series by his son Christopher, who still collects royalties on the books.

Thomas is now sold in 21 countries and has seen his face used on 1,900 licensed

products – not to mention the pirates. More than 100 television films have been developed altogether and Britt Allcroft will also have the right to make a full-length feature.

Like Thomas's rail trips, his sale has been dogged by delays. Reed initially asked for up to £60m, more than four times the eventual sale price.

Another obstacle was Britt Allcroft's reluctance to become a book publisher. Reed wanted to sell its entire children's books business. But the company wanted to stick to developing the film, video and merchandise which bore Thomas's stamp.

The obstacle was removed when Egmont, a big European publisher with revenues of £620m, agreed to publish the books under licence to Britt Allcroft.

If shareholders agree, the deal will be

closed at the end of May. Egmont has also bought the rest of Reed's children's books.

Reed first said it wanted to sell its children's books in July 1995 as it signalled a shift in focus to professional publishing.

Yesterday it marked a further step in that direction by buying two well-known legal publishers in the United States for \$1.65bn (£990m).

In a deal which gives it 30 per cent of the US market, Reed yesterday bought Matthew Bender & Co, an analytical legal publisher, and Shepard's Co, the leading US legal citation service in the US, from Times Mirror Group.

The deal makes Reed the biggest professional publisher in North America but one, narrowly behind Thomson Corp of Canada.

City push for global trade

LEADING CITY FIGURES – including Lord Hurd, the former Cabinet minister, and Sir Nicholas Bayne, chairman of British Invisibles – are to campaign for the liberalisation of world services trade in the next trade negotiations round, scheduled for the year 2000. The City luminaries have joined forces with their counterparts overseas to form "the global services network", a pressure group aimed at building support in the business community for trade liberalisation.

Jet plans end

BRITISH AEROSPACE and its partners in the Al(R) regional jet joint venture yesterday agreed to dissolve the business. The break-up of the venture had been expected since last December when BAE and its partners, Alenia of Italy and Aerospatiale of France, decided not to go ahead with the launch of a 70-seater aircraft, the Airjet.

Trains due

STAGECOACH, the bus and rail operator, has put a £36m financing in place to fund train orders for its rolling stock leasing subsidiary Porterbrook. The financing consists of a £275 securitisation arranged by UBS and a £90m loan from UBS and Royal Bank of Scotland. The funding will be used to buy 100 mph, air-conditioned trains for six passenger franchises. The first trains will enter service next month with Chiltern Trains.

Cuts at Daiwa

DAIWA Securities, the Japanese brokerage, is to lay off a third of its Hong Kong workforce – 76 of its 219 employees – in an attempt "to cope with the drastic changes taking place in the Asian economies". The brokerage, which last week said it made a £375m loss in the year to March, will also reduce its top executives' pay by 10 per cent for one month following the indictment of some of its employees in a bribery case.

CU purchase

COMMERCIAL Union has bought Farmers Union Insurance Acquisition Corp for about \$118m (£77m) to boost its US agricultural insurance business. Farmers Union would continue to be run by Jake Krull, its president and chief executive. CU said CU shares fell 45p to 102.5p.

WPP increase

ADVERTISING and marketing services group WPP said yesterday its first-quarter revenues were up over 13 per cent in constant currencies, but the strength of sterling reduced the increase in reportable revenues to over 8 per cent. Total revenues in the three months to 31 March were £419m, up from £387m in the comparable year-ago period.

Adlight sold

MAIDEN Group, the outdoor advertising company, has bought Adlight Ltd for £15m, made up of a redeemable loan note of £13.7m and cash of £1.3m. Maiden said that due to restructuring costs, it did not expect the acquisition to increase its pre-tax profits in 1998. Adlight had around 3,200 six-sheet point-of-sale advertising panels located in supermarkets across the UK.

DBS changes

THE CHIEF executive of DBS Management, Martin Greenwood, was to leave by mutual consent, the business support services group said yesterday. The move is part of a reorganisation under which Tony Kempster has been appointed as chief executive of DBS Financial Management. The finance director David Stewart has been appointed as group managing director.

Peps soar to record £7.3bn

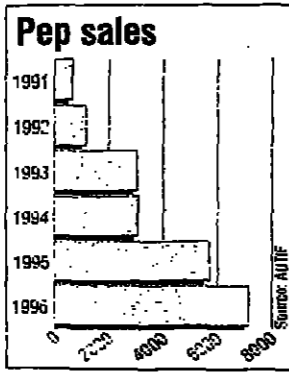
By Andrew Verity

RELIEF over Labour's policies on private saving drove investors to ignore warnings about a peaky stock market and pour record amounts into personal equity plans in the tax year to April.

Between April 6 1997 and April 5 1998, Peps attracted £7.3bn, a sharp jump on the total for the previous tax year of less than £5.7bn.

Last month alone, savers put £1.5bn into Peps as the Chancellor announced that savers could, after all, keep Pep savings without being subject to a mooted £50,000 lifetime limit.

In just the first five days of April, savers added a further £728m to the Pep coffers. Investors are allowed a limit of £9,000 each to the tax-free Peps



each year. By making investments before the tax year ended, it was possible to take advantage of two years' worth of Pep allowances before the products' abolition next April.

In its March budget the Government scrapped a proposed £50,000 ceiling for tax-exempt savings schemes and gave a green light to existing

PEP plans. While new PEPs will no longer be available from April 1999, investors will be able to keep their savings within the old product indefinitely.

Philip Warland, director general of Autif, the trade body which compiles the sales statistics, said: "As we suspected, once the uncertainty over ISAs was removed by the Budget, investment funds proved more popular than ever with the UK saver. The growth shows increasing numbers of people understand the need for commitment when saving for long term goals such as pensions and mortgages."

The biggest sales of all took place in April last year, as Pep providers played on the fears of retail investors in the run-up to the general election in May. "Election Pep" products attracted over £1.6bn.

March this year was also a record month for sales of unit trusts, the vehicles into which most PEPs are invested.

Gross unit trust and open-ended investment company (OEIC) sales hit a record £4.3bn in March, up 46 per cent from a year ago, Autif said.

UK Growth and UK Growth and Income funds were the most popular among private investors in the month.

Retail investors continued their retreat from Asia, making Japan and Far East, excluding Japan, funds the worst selling in the month, it said.

PEPs had continued rapid sales in the first five days of April, logging £728m in sales and helping to set a record £7.3bn tax year total.

Total industry funds under management rose £7bn to £180bn Sgt, it said.

CU subsidiary rapped over misleading advertisements

By Lea Paterson

THE investment watchdog has reprimanded a subsidiary of Commercial Union, the UK insurance giant, for issuing misleading advertisements.

The adverts for Advance Call's Win Win PEP primarily aimed at recipients of windfall Halifax shares, appeared in the press in May and June of last year.

The adverts used share performance data from the earlier Abbey National flotation "in a way that was capable of being misleading", according to the Personal Investment Authority.

In particular, there were concerns that Halifax investors could have been misled into believing that, because Abbey National shares performed well

after flotation, Halifax shares would do well too.

The watchdog said the adverts also gave "a misleading impression" of the advantages of the product. In particular, the PIA felt Advance Call – a wholly owned subsidiary of Commercial Union – did not spell out sufficiently clearly that investors in the Win Win PEP would lose their right to share dividends. The PIA said: "The advertisements thus did not clearly address the 'cost' to the investor of the benefit of the capital security provided by the PEP."

The PIA added that its views were "based in part on the fact that the advertisements appeared to be directed at 'windfall' recipients of shares, who might not have been familiar

with the benefits available from share ownership."

An Advance Call spokesperson said: "We are disappointed we have been reprimanded, but obviously we must accept the PIA's decision." The spokesperson pointed out that the PIA did not say the adverts had actually misled anyone, but only that they had the potential to mislead. "There is no evidence anyone was misled."

The spokesperson said the adverts simply provided would-be investors with an information line number. Investors who expressed interest were sent a detailed brochure. The PIA said it noted that the brochure "contained explanations which to some extent dealt with a number of the points of concern".

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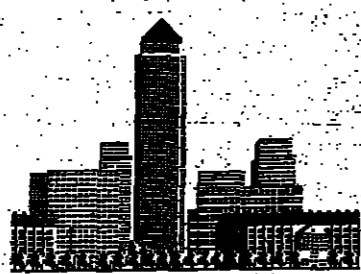
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OUTLOOK ON THE GROWING CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE AT A ONE-TIME STAR AND THE NON-AGREEMENT ON GLOBAL INVESTMENT

Hope, hype and hubris at British Biotech

WHEN it comes to investment, hope is a wonderful thing. It was recently calculated by an analyst that if you added up the projected sales of the entire biotech sector, it came to such an astronomically high figure that, even on the most heroic assumptions about the success of these companies in bringing their products to market and the success of these products once on the market, it couldn't possibly be true. Yet each individual stock is valued by stock markets on the basis of these projections. According to the analyst, Steven Abbott of Credit Lyonnais, the biotech sector might as a result be overvalued by as much as five times. Some biotech companies should eventually justify their valuations, but on the basis of this calculation, four out of five of them will come to naught. Most of the value in biotech floats on hope alone.

There is a not dissimilar phenomenon taking place in telecommunications right now. Some of the upswing of the last year or so among telecommunications stocks is down to the perceived market opportunity from deregulation in Europe. Yet if you add up the projected market shares of all the hopeful newcomers and lay them alongside what analysts think will happen to the present market incumbents, you get to a figure of way in excess of 200 per cent. Plainly, they cannot all be right.

Most of the time, the market only has itself to blame when projections get typed to this degree. Managements can hardly be faulted for having ambitious targets; the problem lies with investors in taking them at face value.

British Biotech, on the other hand, may fall into an entirely different category. The question to be addressed by regulators here is whether the company and its officers became so blinded by ambition, hubris and greed, that they wrongly encouraged these optimistic projections, and worse, withheld damaging test results about their drug discoveries from public disclosure. Did directors who would have known this information profit from the hype by selling their shares? What of the company's subsequent £230m rights issue? Plainly this moves beyond the offence of over-enthusiasm, which is common enough throughout business, never mind this sector, into that of misleading investors.

It would be wrong for this column to attempt to answer this question. Obviously, British Biotech became hugely overhyped, but as to whether investors were actively misled, we so far only have the evidence of the company's sacked former head of research, Dr Andrew Millar, and he self-evidently has an axe to grind. Certainly the company strongly disputes his case. None the less, the allegations are cause for grave

concern and it is hard to see how the present chief executive, Keith McCullagh, can survive them. Whatever the truth or otherwise of what Dr Millar says, Mr McCullagh stands accused of precipitous loss of shareholder value and of running an unruly senior management team. In most companies, that in itself would be enough to see him out the door. As for investors, their best hope seems to lie in the possibility that the wreckage still contains something worth bidding for.

Talks failure is bad for the world's poor

THE Multilateral Agreement (or now, non agreement) on Investment has managed to generate an extraordinary degree of heat and noise for what on the face of it is an eminently sensible and quite uncontroversial international initiative further to integrate the world economy. The idea was that any country that signed up to it would agree to treat investors from other signatories on the same terms as indigenous investors. There now, that's not too bad, is it? Well actually it seems to some to have been about the worst thing since Eve introduced the concept of evil into the world.

The crisis in Asia, which some have blamed on global capital markets, has trig-

gered a fearful anti-globalisation backlash. Much of this comes from those who have always been anti-multinational and against the power and influence of capital markets, but just recently it has taken on new converts. In any case, enough politicians have become sufficiently concerned about the pace of globalisation and the potential political and social consequences of it to ensure that the MAI has once more ground to a halt. It is the first bit of the international financial architecture, as the buzz phrase goes, obviously to have fallen victim to the Asian crisis.

Partly this is simply down to the way negotiations over the MAI have been proceeding, i.e. amongst the select club of OECD members, in secrecy and with just the dimmest of distant realisations that democracy might actually matter in international finance. Add in US and French concerns about their national interests in all such matters, and difficulties were inevitable.

However, the root cause of this failure was probably Asia, Britain playing a comendable role in cheerleading for as much liberalisation as possible, but its voice has been drowned out by the crisis in Asia, which may have knocked the process of further global deregulation back years.

This is unfortunate. The Department for International Development recently

published research by Oxford academics which concluded that the right kind of MAI could prove a massive boon to the world's poor. A new publication from the OECD's own experts yesterday drew much the same conclusion. It calculated, for example, that the last round of trade liberalisation, the Uruguay Round, had delivered the equivalent of a \$200bn global tax cut.

The moral is that the lobby groups should be fighting for the right kind of MAI rather than opposing it tooth and nail. A deal brokered by the World Trade Organisation, where developing countries have a voice, might be a sensible alternative. However, such is the wave of fashionable anti-globalisation sentiment sweeping the world post the trouncing of the former Tiger economies, that this may not be an option. The protectionism being demonstrated by the US and France is being welcomed by supposed defenders of the world's poor. Many trade unionists would rather stick with the present framework for negotiations, having made progress in getting governments and employers to recognise their concerns about labour standards in the third world.

If the MAI does fall by the wayside for good, it will be one of the biggest costs so far imposed on the rest of the world by events in Asia.



East meets West: Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, and Kyu Sung Lee, the Korean Finance Minister, at the OECD meeting in Paris

Deadlock on global investment accord

By Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

A ROW over the future of a controversial plan to liberalise international investment erupted yesterday at the meeting that was supposed to have seen its adoption.

Finance and economics ministers meeting in Paris at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development could not agree whether to shelve the Multilateral Agreement on Investment or press on with negotiations to complete it.

Ministers at the meeting did give a tentative welcome to Japan's package of measures to boost its ailing economy, announced at the end of last week. But it fell far short of the endorsement specifically requested by Japan's finance minister in order to help boost confidence.

Discussions on the MAI, which started in 1995 and were due to be completed this week, became fraught when Dominique Strauss-Kahn, France's finance minister, told the opening session of the meeting yes-

terday that the plan should be suspended.

Several countries, including France, have become concerned that the creation of a level playing field for investment between countries accepting the MAI would override national interests.

The negotiations have also come under bitter attack from Third World lobby groups, who argue that further liberalisation of international investment was ignoring the interests of the poor and the environment.

A draft statement on the MAI acknowledged these concerns. It said the agreement should take "full account of economic concerns and political, social and cultural sensitivities". It also set out that the agreement must not interfere with the sovereign rights of governments.

Yet after hours of talks yesterday, there was no consensus about how or whether to take forward the deadlocked negotiations. Whatever the outcome today, after the second day of the meeting, little progress is expected until the autumn, after the US Congressional elections. Renato Ruggiero, director

general of the World Trade Organisation, said yesterday it was assessing whether to start its own investment talks, including developing countries in the discussions. These would almost certainly replace any negotiations at the OECD if they went ahead.

Other OECD members, including Britain, are keen to press on with the existing plan. Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said yesterday: "I think it would be unfortunate if we were to kick into touch the MAI. Suspension would mean it could disappear."

Like other ministers attending the meeting, Mrs Liddell welcomed the Japanese economic package. Koji Omu, Japan's Minister for Economic Planning, pleaded for support from other ministers. Japan has asked the OECD to revise up its forecast for growth this year, sticking with its own prediction of a 1.9 per cent rise in GDP. But other countries kept up the international pressure on the Japanese Government to make sure the stimulus works in practice.

Outlook, this page

Mild winter means price rises for gas consumers

By Michael Harrison

GAS consumers are facing price rises above the level of inflation this autumn from Transco, the transportation arm of BG, even though its new pricing formula is supposed to produce real reductions in domestic bills.

The average household bill will rise by about £4.20 a year in October, following an increase of 4 per cent in transport charges, which account for 40 per cent of the total bill.

A Transco spokesman said the increase was happening because it had under-recovered £190m in revenues last year due to the warm weather. The pricing formula agreed with the gas regulator Ofgas allows it adjust

prices to compensate for this. He added that the price rise would have been 6 per cent had Transco not agreed to phase the recovery of the £190m over two years.

But the Gas Consumers Council questioned the increases. "Due to the mild winter, consumers who thought they would save money will end up paying more than the level of inflation for gas transportation," said its director, Sue Slipman. "This looks like a perverse effect of Transco's pricing methodology."

Transco's price formula should limit increase in transportation charges to 2 per cent less than the rate of inflation. This year it said the average in-

crease would be 2 per cent. But within this there is a wide range for different consumers.

The GCC estimated that while domestic charges would rise by 4 per cent, large industrial users on interruptible contracts could see reductions of up to 32 per cent.

Ms Slipman added that there were growing worries about the way the formula worked and the way benefits of price reductions were shifting in favour of big commercial users.

Transco said the increase worked out at less than a penny a therm on the average domestic consumption of 650 therms a year. It was up to suppliers whether or not to pass on the increases.

Electricity firms warned on sales

competition from September.

Professor Stephen Littlechild said that in extreme circumstances suppliers could have their licences revoked, although he expected most of them to comply with new codes

of practice designed to improve consumer protection.

He was speaking as the Office of Electricity Supply launched a £2.5m campaign to promote the liberalisation of the market which will enable all 26

million domestic customers to shop around for a supplier by June next year.

Competition will be introduced first for customers of Eastern, Manweb, Seeboard, Yorkshire and Scottish Power

with other regions following in tranches in October and December.

Price reductions are not expected to exceed 10 per cent - half the level of the savings when the gas market was liberalised - and Professor Littlechild said initially only 5 per cent of customers might switch.

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Footsie dives on fears of US rate hike

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

FOOTSIE crashed 141.5 points - its biggest one-day fall since December - as the stock market expressed dismay at the possibility of higher transatlantic interest rates.

At one time the blue-chip index was off 164 as investors fretted about New York's reaction to the possibility of higher transatlantic interest rates.

The fallout took Footsie down to 5,722.4. In December, a 148.1 slump lowered it to 5,020.2.

The latest fall, accentuated by ex-dividends, was recorded against a background of unrelenting trading. Turnover was a remarkable 1.4 billion. But the signalled share sales at Aegis, the media buying group, accounted for nearly 650 million shares and undercut players like John Lusty and Emerald Energy were responsible for a further 60 million.

Still, despite the special circumstances, the setback has, perhaps predictably,

aroused fears the long bull run could be over.

Footsie hit a 6,105.8 peak early this month. Since then, with the exception of a few hesitant rallies, it has been all down hill.

Many market men have advocated a correction. The market has run ahead too quickly, they argue, and a period of gentle consolidation is necessary. Now they have to address the question whether shares are merely pausing for breath, as they wish, or decay has set in.

Other indices were caught up in the retreat, with the mid and small caps weakening.

Only nine blue chips actually made headway. Top of the list was Carlton Communications, still reflecting a meeting at Dresden Kleinwort Benson on Friday, with a 14p gain to 492p. EMI, as takeover rumours were given yet another spin, added 9p to 498.5p.

Financials endured a roasting. Norwich Union lost 29.5p

to 420p; Alliance & Leicester 50p to 78p and General Accident 77p to 1.31p. Halifax fell 44p to 787.5p.

Some of last week's high-flying exporters took a hammering. Rolls-Royce dived 18.5p to 273p and Siebe, bidding £439m for Eurotherm, gave up 77p to 1.303p. Eurotherm surged 96.5p to 445p.

Great Universal Stores, celebrating its Argos success, rose 4p to 860p. Morgan Stanley has put a 1,000p target on the shares but a more cautious SG Securities settled for 900p.

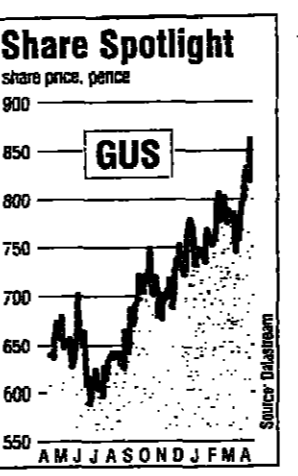
Property group Chesterfield improved 52.5p to 686.5p after it became apparent at least two bidders circled. MEPC is one; the other is GE Capital, the financial arm of General Electric of the US. The property target contented itself with a comment it was in talks which "may or may not" lead to an offer.

Electrical group Beales Hunter added 10p to 92.5p on

the Torday & Carlisle stake building.

Heritage Bathrooms, up 38.5p to 285p, reflected a bid approach and publisher Dorling Kindersley rose 13.5p to 244.5p on rumoured US interest. BICC hardened 9.5p to 167.5p as bid talk reappeared.

UK Estates held at 22.5p. Chairman David Gradel said he intends to bid 27p a share.



John Lusty, the food group, rose 0.75p to 12p following its 157 per cent profit increase to £1.9m and the £5.4m acquisition of Unimercants, an importer of Mediterranean foods.

Aegis firmed 5p to 87.5p. Three big investors sold nearly 40 per cent of the shares. The sellers, Warburg Pincus, Electra and the Gross family, raised £348m. Most of the shares were sold at 81p with some going for 80p.

Lorho had a strong session, gaining 11p to 439p, ahead of its move to split into two, a focused mining company and its African units. Shares of its African operation, called Lorho Africa, should start trading next week. There are signs the split could herald bid action. Morgan Stanley, the US investment house, has acquired 5 per cent from SBC. Warburg and is now thought to have 10 per cent. Some wonder whether the stake will be used as a platform for a bid

from the former Lorho chief, Tiny Rowland, who has made clear his resistance to the changes taking place at the group he created.

Petra Diamonds had another busy session, ending 3p off at 142.5p as "encouraging" developments were reported from its Angolan prospect.

Middlesex Holdings fell 0.75p to 3.75p as it became clear year's figures would be disappointing. The group, headed by Lord Owen, is to concentrate on Russian steel trading. Chief executive Masoud Aliakhan is stepping down.

Watermark, an advertising and in-flight products group, jumped 7.5p to 48p. The AIM-listed company plans a full listing in July. DBS Management, the business support services group, fell 10.5p to 27.1p. Chief executive Martin Greenwood is departing with finance director David Stewart moving in.

TAKING STOCK

OFEX is due to welcome its 200th constituent next week. If all goes according to plan Applian Traffic Technologies, headed by former Tory Transport Minister Peter Bottomley, will make its debut on Tuesday after raising £1.5m, selling shares at 20p a share. The company offers traffic management systems, designed to make car parks more efficient by directing motorists to empty parking spaces. It evolved when Dublin Airport, with 4,200 spaces, sought the development of a parking guidance system.

SHARES of the first Continental football club to take aim - Lazio - should start trading on the junior market next week. Around 41 per cent of Societa Sportiva Lazio is being sold to investors. The Italian club arrives at a time when British football clubs are out of favour, at least in investment terms. Bologna could follow Lazio, and Vicenza could make it an Italian hat trick.

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52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code	52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
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52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code	52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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هذه هي الامور

McKiernan has the world at her feet

Athletics

By Mike Rowbottom

CATHERINA MCKIERNAN, Ireland's first London Marathon winner, is likely to make an attempt on the world best this autumn on the course where she made her marathon debut last September - Berlin.

The 28-year-old farmer's daughter from Co. Cavan achieved the fastest ever debut in Germany, 2hr 23min 41sec, and she and her coach, Joe Doonan, believe she is capable of challenging the mark of 2:20:47 set by Kenya's Tegla Loroupe in Rotterdam a week before Sunday's Flora London Marathon.

"I think if the weather conditions are right we can have a serious go at the record," said Doonan, a primary school principal who has coached McKiernan since she was an 11-year-old. "Catherina ran the second half so quick that with a bit more experience I'm sure she can go even quicker."

Yesterday, as McKiernan prepared for the acclaim of a gratified nation upon her return to Dublin, she spoke of wanting to run an autumn marathon in either Amsterdam or Berlin.

The Berlin course is recognised as one of the fastest in the world after Rotterdam, where both the men's and women's world marks have been set. But McKiernan's focus next spring is likely to be altered, if only temporarily, from the marathon - she has her heart set on winning the world cross country title, which has so far eluded her, when it is hosted by Belfast.

In the meantime, McKiernan, who received a congratulatory phone call from Ireland's president, Mary McAleese, after Sunday's victory in 2:26:26, is planning to escape the public gaze for a few days' holiday.

"There was a lot of publicity before the race, a lot of hype," she said. "All the bus shelters in Ireland have had pictures of me advertising this race and there's been a lot in the press. But I didn't let it get to me."

While McKiernan's press was all about expectation, Spain's Abel Antón, who won the men's title in a time that was just two seconds outside the course record of 2:07:55, spent the weeks under the shadow of accusation.

Portugal's defending champion Antonio Pinto, who finished third on Sunday behind Antón and the Moroccan, Abdelkader El Mouaziz, was quoted as being sceptical about the huge recent success at distance running of Spaniards in general and Antón in particular.

Antón, and his manager Miguel Mostaza, vigorously defended the Spanish position, and Pinto subsequently denied he believed there was any wrongdoing. Pinto's statement that he regarded Antón as a friend appeared to be borne out in the closing stages of Sunday's race as he and the Spaniard chased El Mouaziz. The Portuguese runner waved Antón through for a home pursuit when he realised he could no longer keep pace.

Abel, who has won four of his five marathons - including last year's World Championships in Athens, called yesterday for the sport's international governing body to increase blood testing. "I'm happy to pass any type of test whenever the IAAF want," said Antón, who admitted he was the first ever athlete to take a blood test after last year's Bissett Games in Oslo.

"But the law must be the same for everyone," he added. "I've lived in the same town, so the testers know where they can find me. It's much more difficult to trace athletes in Africa for example."



An aerial view of the unfinished main Olympic stadium for the Sydney 2000 games, which will hold 110,000 spectators. Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC president, visited the site recently and said: 'What I can say is that it is the most impressive stadium I have ever seen' Photograph: AP

Coulthard's credentials restored

By Derrick Allsop

THE beer flowed, the rock music boomed into the balmy evening air and two of motorsport's hardened professionals wore the self-satisfied countenance of the vindicated.

David Coulthard's victory in the San Marino Grand Prix here on Sunday had restored his status as a world championship contender and pushed back the questions about his future.

It also provided ammunition for Ron Dennis and Norbert Haug, respectively principle directors of McLaren and Mercedes, in justifying their faith in the mounting speculation that they would attempt to lure Michael Schumacher from Ferrari.

Mika Hakkinen presented his case for the defence by taking an early command of the championship and Coulthard was conscious he had to counter his McLaren team-mate.

"It's a great achievement for David I'm happy for him,"

Haug said. "He's taken a lot of criticism recently and it's not right. It was very unfair."

"I knew he would respond well. He's that kind of guy. He's showed he's a great driver and he made no mistakes all weekend. There was a lot of pressure and it's a fantastic result."

"It shows we made the right decision last year when we had to choose one or both drivers. We decided to stick with David and he's proved us absolutely correct. He's very focused and has a big future ahead of him."

Coulthard's victory took him

above Schumacher into second place and within three points of Hakkinen, and Dennis was intent on heading off further conjecture of conflict within his team.

"A little suggestion of internal friction within a Grand Prix team is very newsworthy, but really there isn't here," Dennis said. "When you have Michael Schumacher breathing down your neck you have to handle it and have a strategy that doesn't present him with any opportunities he can take advantage of. He certainly keeps you

awake, but if his car and ours are running well, without any problems, I think he will struggle to beat us."

Coulthard begins testing at Barcelona tomorrow in preparation for the Spanish Grand Prix, on Sunday week, with the conviction he can sustain his championship momentum.

"It's hard to ignore all the talk about my future, but the best way to respond is to get a win and I've done that," Coulthard said.

"You have to take yourself back to your core of belief and

motivation. I know I'm quick enough to challenge for the title and I have to remind myself of that. This sort of win can put you on a roll and I'm going in the right direction."

One of Coulthard's earlier mentors, Jackie Stewart, is expected to replace the hapless Jan Magnussen with Joss Verstappen as he attempts to change the fortunes of the Stewart Ford camp.

Ford, meanwhile, are said to have had talks with Benetton with view to a possible link-up next season.

PHILIPS ECOTONE

Today we publish the updated results of The Independent Fantasy Football League. The league table includes all scores up to APRIL 19th. The player list includes scores from all games played until April 27th. Neither set of scores includes results from the FA Cup. The overall winner at the end of the season will win a pair of tickets to the World Cup finals in France this summer.

Every time one of your players score you get four points. There are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e.: if there is a one goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded 1 bonus point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. Each successful Assist, a pass judged by our experts to lead directly to a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of our experts on the matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose 1 point, if a player is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count.

The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life team wins, 1 point is awarded if they draw and no points are given if they lose.

Updated player scores and league tables will be published every Tuesday in The Independent and repeated the following Sunday in the Independent on Sunday.

HOW TO SCORE

Player scores: 4 points per goal
Clean sheet: 4 points
Winning goal: 1 point
Assist: 3 points
Yellow card: -1 point
Red card: -3 points
Manager's team wins: 3 points

Independent Fantasy Football

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 27 APRIL

LEAGUE TABLE				GOALKEEPERS				DEFENDERS				MIDFIELDERS				STRIKERS			
POS	NAME	TEAM	POINTS	NAME	TEAM	PTS	VAL	NAME	TEAM	PTS	VAL	NAME	TEAM	PTS	VAL	NAME	TEAM	PTS	VAL
1	Mr D Edmington	Edmo United	1068	291	Seaman	ARS	5 71 40	401	Evans	ARS	5 72 52	601	Platt	ARS	4 26 25	679	Sharpe	LEE	0 0 35
2	Mr C King	Seeking Victory	1063	292	Lukic	ARS	0 0 10	402	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	602	Parkour	ARS	0 0 24	680	Ribeiro	LEE	0 0 15
3	Mr P Tuller	Pin Ups	1063	293	Managers	ARS	0 0 10	403	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	603	Fantoni	ARS	0 0 24	681	Soldevit	LEE	0 0 15
4	Mr D Evans	Boothend Old Boys	1063	294	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	404	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	604	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	682	Lightbourne	LEE	0 0 15
5	Mr J Cox	Southville FC	1063	295	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	405	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	605	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	683	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
6	Mr I Hayes	Early Birds	1058	296	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	406	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	606	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	684	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
7	Mr Archer	Wembley Bounders	1057	297	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	407	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	607	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	685	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
8	Mr I Boyle	Tony's Boys	1053	298	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	408	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	608	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	686	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
9	Mr A Wingrove	Diana's Demons	1053	299	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	409	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	609	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	687	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
10	Mr T Lyons	Simply The Best	1051	300	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	410	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	610	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	688	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
11	Mr D Baker	Deja Vu	1046	301	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	411	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	611	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	689	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
12	Mr D Satri	The Untouchables	1039	302	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	412	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	612	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	690	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
13	Mr D Aston	Billy's Boy's 2nd 11	1039	303	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	413	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	613	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	691	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
14	Mr G Bell	The Horri Monsters	1039	304	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	414	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	614	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	692	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
15	Mr S Scott	Unbeatable	1039	305	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	415	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	615	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	693	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
16	Mr M Pawley	Robert's Raiders	1037	306	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	416	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	616	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	694	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
17	Mr A Choudi	Nikies 9th 11	1034	307	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	417	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	617	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	695	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
18	Mr S Scott	The Dream Team	1032	308	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	418	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	618	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	696	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
19	Mr M Evans	Mike's B Team	1031	309	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	419	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	619	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	697	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
20	Mr K Boyle	Clogston Rovers	1027	310	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	420	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	620	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	698	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
21	Mr M Evans	I've Started But Will I Finish	1027	311	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	421	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	621	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	699	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
22	Miss L Wild	Amersham FC	1021	312	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	422	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	622	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	700	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
23	Mr A Mitchell	The Eye For It	1021	313	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	423	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	623	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	701	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
24	Mr D Aston	Nursery Park Rovers	1021	314	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	424	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	624	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	702	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
25	Mr P Cridland	Billy's Boy's 3rd 11	1021	315	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	425	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	625	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	703	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
26	Mr S Mann	PDC2	1020	316	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	426	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	626	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	704	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
27	Mr M Mann	Rebecca Rovers	1019	317	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	427	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	627	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	705	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
28	Mr T Brazier	Mike's B Team	1018	318	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	428	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	628	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	706	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
29	Mr J Mitchell	Nursery Park Rovers	1017	319	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	429	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	629	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	707	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
30	Mr G Bell	Stunning Stunts	1015	320	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	430	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	630	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	708	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
31	Mr J McCrossan	Washed Up Army	1011	321	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	431	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	631	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	709	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
32	Mr J Brown	The Hoofers	1010	322	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	432	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	632	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	710	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
33	Mr N Peat	Tim's Tiger	1007	323	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	433	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	633	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	711	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
34	Mr D Ackroyd	Jack's Lads	1006	324	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	434	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	634	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	712	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
35	Mr J McCrossan	Washed Up Army	1005	325	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	435	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	635	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	713	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
36	Mr M Mitchell	Induring Image	1005	326	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	436	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	636	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	714	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
37	Mr G Whitebread	Trojan Team	1005	327	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	437	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	637	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	715	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
38	Mr S Hog	Hog's Train	1002	328	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	438	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	638	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	716	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
39	Mr Brady	Look Lively	1002	329	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	439	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	639	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	717	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15
40				330	Boothend	ARS	0 0 10	440	Evans	ARS	0 0 10	640	Palmer	ARS	0 0 24	718	Freeman	LEE	0 0 15

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PHILIPS

Ebdon stays focused to reach the quarter-finals

Snooker

By Guy Hodgson
The Crucible, Sheffield

ETER EBDON would probably be enigmatic in the green rooms. "I want these courtesies but I can't tell you why. It's for you to find out." Like a stripper from a more innocent age, he usually covers up as much as he reveals. It was the same yesterday as he reached the quarter-finals of the Embassy World Championship with a 13-5 win over Ireland's Fergal O'Brien. His style had been remodelled

but would the layman be able to tell? "Not really." Could he tell us what other motivational tools he had been using? "No."

Instead we got a soundbite: "I don't think it's a question that my focus left me, I left my focus." which was like a piece of Labour Party spin, all very neat until you realised it told you very little. Where's the meat, you might ask. Just do not expect an answer.

Which, if it makes Ebdon appear shallow, is unfair because he is at least as rounded as anyone can be on the snooker circuit. He makes pop records, he

owns race horses and he is also good enough to have reached the final of this tournament two years ago. It is just that he likes to hide a little.

That 18-12 defeat to Stephen Hendry in the final of 1996 had such a diminishing effect on him that it has taken the intervening time and a Nick Faldo-style remodelling to recover. In Faldo's case the guru was David Leadbetter, in Ebdon's Chris Henry, a snooker coach.

"I've learnt more in the last six or seven months than I have in the last seven years," Ebdon

said. "He's a very good coach and he's done a world of good for me."

What was wrong? "Where's Mr Freud," he replied. "At a very deep level it took a long time to forgive myself for losing in the final of the world championship. When you are a professional sportsman and you set yourself very high goals it's disappointing when you don't meet those targets."

"I've been highly critical. You could say that I won two tournaments last season but I wasn't playing well, I wasn't going anywhere. Although I got to

No 3 in the world, with my technique that's as far as I was going to get because I got there on sheer determination, hard work and bottle. Now I know I've got the technique."

Certainly there seemed nothing wrong with it yesterday. Ahead 13-4 overnight, he lost the first frame of the day, when O'Brien had a break of 67, but closed the match emphatically with a clearance of 124. He will now meet the fourth seed Mark Williams.

That win means Ebdon has already earned more than £3,000 here for the children's

charity SPARKS because he is donating 10 per cent of his earnings. "What better thing could you do for your social worth than raising money for medical research for kids," he said. "It's a great honour."

Ronnie O'Sullivan was a frame short of joining Ebdon in the last eight, leading Alan McManus 12-4 going into last night's evening session. The seventh seed had established a 7-1 lead on Sunday and, if he could have taken six of yesterday afternoon's eight frames, he would not have had to return to the Crucible.

Instead McManus fought back and won the first frame of the day with a break of 71, another to make it 9-3 with a 64, and then frustrated O'Sullivan's break for an evening off with a 57. The winner will meet Jimmy White in today's quarter-finals.

If that contest was one-sided, the remaining second round match between Mark King and Matthew Stevens was anything but. They were level at 8-8 going into last night's session and few clues as to which would get to his first world quarter-final were uncovered.

Kendall falls out with his chairman

Football

By Alan Nixon

THE Everton manager, Howard Kendall, is heading for a confrontation with his chairman, Peter Johnson, over the signing of John Spencer.

Johnson wants the £1.5m transfer of the Scottish striker to be put on hold until the Goodison club know their fate in the Premier League. However, Kendall has told Spencer, who went through extensive heart tests last week, that the deal will be completed today.

It is the latest clash between Kendall and Johnson over money. The chairman blocked a pre-deadline move for the Chilean Fernando Sierralta after the manager set up the deal. The Spencer case is more serious.

The Queen's Park Rangers striker was with the Everton party for a day out at the races yesterday and thinks he is moving. Kendall has stood by the striker despite the discovery of a heart murmur in a medical - and Spencer would not have had minor surgery if he thought the move was in doubt.

Chelsea's player-manager Gianluca Vialli is chasing two of Italy's brightest young talents: Samuele Dallabona and Riccardo Pagnucci.

Vialli and his assistant, Graham Rix, have watched the pair play for Italy in the European Under-16 Championship in Scotland.

The Italian captain Dallabona, of Atalanta, was outstanding in his role as midfield playmaker. The centre-half Pagnucci was also in commanding form - he is with the Serie B side Torino.

The Premier League has requested the requirement for clubs to field their strongest available team, amid fears that Chelsea will rest their top men prior to the European Cup-Winners' Cup final when they play Bolton Wanderers in a potential relegation decider on the last day of the season.

Chelsea's chairman, Ken Bates, has been lobbying the Premier League to move forward the game against Bolton, as it falls just three days before the Cup-Winners' Cup final in Stockholm. But the Premier League has confirmed that it will not be changing the date of the match.

West Ham have confirmed that the French midfielder Marc Koller is one of several players they have been watching over recent months. He is available on a free transfer this summer from the German club Karlsruhe, due to the Bosman ruling.

Hollioake enjoys a field day

Cricket

By David Jewell
At The Oval

Warwickshire 207 & 149
Surrey 405-6
Surrey win by an innings and 49 runs

IF BRIAN LARA had seen his side's record against Surrey at The Oval it is unlikely the Warwickshire captain would have expected anything other than a defeat of this magnitude. Victory on the old ground is turning into a task of sisyphian proportions. It was all very well for Adam Hollioake, his opposite number at Surrey, to talk of it being "great to get maximum points against a side as good as Warwickshire..." but in 75 previous meetings here, Surrey had beaten the Midlands, who began this season as favourites for the Championship, 36 times - 21 of them by an innings.

A dishearteningly inept display by the top order as Warwickshire set about trying to demolish Surrey's first innings advantage of 198 runs, merely added to the disappointment. Lara spared none of the batsmen, not even himself, saying: "The top five have been way below par. Everybody, including me, has to look inside themselves. We have to get runs on the board and we didn't in this game."

In fact, Lara was the only Warwickshire player who tried to adopt a positive approach. His natural game saw him striking eight boundaries as he reached his first half-century of the season, only to fall victim to Mark Butcher shortly before lunch when essaying a leg glance. That proved to be a critical wicket.

With the rest of the batsmen

not pulling their weight and the Surrey attack on its mettle, there was no way Warwickshire were going to be allowed to record their first win on the ground since 1975. Martin Bicknell was in particularly sharp form from the outset and if he was not taking wickets early on then he was certainly not giving away runs. In fact, the bulk of his five wickets came after lunch.

He accounted for some real quality as he notched up his 28th five-wicket haul, sending back England's Nick Knight and Douglass Brown, Trevor Penney, David Hemp and Keith Piper. The wicketkeeper, Piper was the first to go, leg before, in the third over of the morning, after being obliged to open the Warwickshire innings in Knight's enforced absence.

By the time Knight entered the fray at the fall of the fifth wicket - the back spasm he suffered on Saturday kept him out of the action long enough to deny him earlier participation - there was just too much to do. And anyway Surrey were in full cry by then.

Hollioake had Bicknell working from the Vauxhall End and the in-form Ian Salisbury wheeling and dealing his leg-spin from the Pavilion End and it proved beyond Warwickshire.



Surrey's slip cordon steps up the pressure as Warwickshire slump to an innings defeat at The Oval yesterday

Photograph: Peter Jay

Leatherdale brightens day

By Jon Cunliffe
at Leicester

Warwickshire 268-7
v Leicestershire
Match drawn

IT IS ON DAYS such as these that cricket can seem a very silly game and its public all the bigger fools for turning up. After three days lost to the weather, the chances of a positive result here yesterday were remote in the extreme - and yet the rules of the Britannic Assurance Championship insisted that the teams play a one-innings match, from which the winner, were there to be one, would take 12 points.

The trouble was that the rules were taken to the letter, Worcestershire deciding, after

Leicestershire had put them in, that if this was to be a one-innings match then the one innings would be theirs. They duly batted all day, or at least until they were allowed to pack up and leave at 5.30pm. Thus there was no contest at all; merely a public test.

For the spectator, it must have seemed pretty puzzling, not least because both sides had different captains from the ones nominated on Thursday, although Tom Moody, who flew back from international duty in Sharjah on Friday, must have wondered why he bothered to rush across from Worcester yesterday to take over from Graeme Hick. He was too late to toss up and then was out without scoring.

Leicestershire were led by Chris Lewis, after James Whitaker withdrew with a knee problem. This is the same Chris Lewis who sought fulfilment in vain at Nottinghamshire and Surrey after leaving Grace Road under a cloud in 1991. What odds might have been had then on him coming back as captain?

For the record - but only that - the opener Philip Weston spent almost five hours on the same wicket used for the previous day's AXA League match before a brilliant catch by Phil Simmons at mid-wicket dismissed him for 77, one of three victims for the left-arm spin of Matthew Brimson, who snared an unfortunate David Leatherdale for 99.

Silverwood shines as Yorkshire move ahead in Championship

CHRIS SILVERWOOD set out his stall for inclusion in England's Texaco Trophy squad to face South Africa as he bowled Yorkshire to the top of the County Championship table. Yorkshire routed Derbyshire by 111 runs at Headingley yesterday and they have opened a 14-point lead over Surrey and Sussex.

Yorkshire declared their second innings at 105 without loss to set the visitors a target of 322. But although Kim Barnett and Adrian Rollins made a third-wicket stand of 110 Derbyshire slipping to 210 all out. Silverwood boosted his match haul to nine wickets by taking 4 for 42. Courtney Walsh bagged 6 for

42 as Nick Speak's defiant 74 failed to prevent Durham slipping to defeat as Gloucestershire moved to fifth. Steve Harmison and John Wood took three wickets each before Gloucestershire declared their second innings on 103 for 6, setting the hosts a target of 248.

Walsh took 3 for 18 in nine overs as Durham initially slumped to 42 for 4 and, after Speak had sparked a mid-order recovery, the veteran paceman returned to wrap up the tail.

The Sussex captain, Chris Adams, completed his second century of the match against Essex but the return of the rain meant the contest at Chelmsford ended in a draw.

Cricket scoreboard

Britannic Assurance County Championship

Final day of four, today, 11.0

Durham v Gloucestershire (2nd day)

Durham (40) by 46 runs

Gloucestershire won 100

Gloucestershire - First innings 287

(R C Russell 62, M A Wynne 51, S J Harris 50, 5-70)

Durham - First innings 143

Gloucestershire - Second innings

(Surrey 32 for 0)

J C Harris c Spearhead b Wood 17

J C Harris c Spearhead b Wood 17

J C Harris c Spearhead b Wood 17

J C Harris c Spearhead b Wood 17

J C Harris c Spearhead b Wood 17

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J C Harris c Spearhead b Wood 17

J C Harris c Spearhead b Wood 17

Derbyshire v Yorkshire

Derbyshire won 100

Yorkshire - First innings 268-7

(R C Russell 62, M A Wynne 51, S J Harris 50, 5-70)

Derbyshire - First innings 143

Yorkshire - Second innings

(Surrey 32 for 0)

J C Harris c Spearhead b Wood 17

J C Harris c Spearhead b Wood 17

J C Harris c Spearhead b Wood 17

J C Harris c Spearhead b Wood 17

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J C Harris c Spearhead b Wood 17

J C Harris c Spearhead b Wood 17

Sporting Digest

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Oakland 12 Baltimore 4; Texas 11 Kansas City 4; Minnesota 2 Seattle 0; Anaheim 2 Tampa Bay 1; Chicago White Sox 5 Toronto 5 (suspended 4th inning); Postponed: Boston v Cleveland; Detroit v New York Yankees.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Florida 12 Arizona 6; Colorado 7 Atlanta 6; Houston 10 Montreal 0; Philadelphia 3 St Louis 3; Pittsburgh 8 San Diego 0; Los Angeles 4 Chicago Cubs 3 (12 innings); San Francisco 8 Milwaukee 7; Postponed: Cincinnati v New York Mets.

EASTERN DIVISION

NY Yankees 14 L 5 297 68

Boston 10 5 727 57

Baltimore 10 5 727 57

Tampa Bay 11 11 500 5

Toronto 13 13 409 7

CENTRAL DIVISION

Cleveland 10 5 591 3

Minnesota 10 5 438 37

Kansas City 10 5 474 4

White Sox 10 5 381 4

Detroit 10 5 381 4

WESTERN DIVISION

St Louis 10 5 474 4

San Diego 10 5 381 4

Philadelphia 10 5 381 4

Pittsburgh 10 5 381 4

Those magnificent men in their flying machines



Flying high: Riders take to the air in the world motocross championships in Schwanenstadt, Austria. Darryll King of the Netherlands won the first round of the 500cc from Peter Johansen of Sweden with Germany's Bernd Eickenbach third

French braced for ticket chaos

Football

By Catherine Riley

WORLD CUP organisers are bracing themselves for another round of accusations of a second fiasco when up to 40,000 additional tickets go on sale today.

First and second-round tickets have been returned by national associations unable to sell their allocations and last week the scramble for tickets resulted in 10 million people in Britain alone jamming the system.

Isabelle Delaye, of the French organising committee (CFO), confirmed the tickets will be sold by the same system, but Graham Bean, the chairman of the Football Supporters' Association, believes that the French are setting themselves up for another fiasco.

"First we hear that there are no more available, then miraculously another 40,000 are on sale," he said. "I've absolutely no doubt the whole thing will end in chaos again." The hotline number is 0033-149-875-354.

Another person who will not be going to the World Cup, it seems, is David Ginola. Aimé Jacquet, the France coach, said yesterday he was not particularly impressed with the Tottenham player. "I have a lot better players than him," Jacquet said. "And I told Spurs coach Christian Gross so when he called me."

Meanwhile, the West Ham goalkeeper, Bernard Lama, will have to wait until France's first game of the finals to see if he wins back his place after Jacquet said he would not decide between him and Fabien Barthez until actually naming his team for the match against South Africa.

Glenn Hoddle, meanwhile, is having his World Cup plans overshadowed by problems off the pitch. The England coach may have to go to court to defend his reputation after psychic Uri Geller insisted that he has no intention of backing down in the face of possible legal action.

Geller told a Sunday newspaper that Hoddle had visited him at his home a couple of years ago and made various claims about what had taken place during the alleged meeting.

Hoddle, however, has described Geller's claims as "an extraordinary combination of lies, inaccuracies, exaggerations and misleading innuendoes" and is taking legal advice.

Spencer clash, page 29

United secure Stam in £10m world-record deal



Stam: Dream move

By Guy Hodgson

IT SOUNDS corny and convenient but if you had asked Jaap Stam a few months ago which club he would like to join the answer would have been Manchester United. That was even before the Old Trafford money machine was prepared to break the world transfer record for a defender with an offer of £10m. Now, you suspect, the union is even more acceptable.

Stam, a 25-year-old central defender who has won 11 caps for the Netherlands, will join the English champions next week

after his club PSV Eindhoven had been battered into a deal by both the player and United. The figure represents a compromise from all sides as United have been pushed up from £8m. PSV have come down from nearly twice that and Stam waived a clause in his contract that would have guaranteed 15 per cent of any transfer fee.

"Everyone recognises Jaap Stam as a world-class defender and that's what we need. I'm very pleased that, subject to the formalities, we have managed to sign him," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said yesterday.

"He's a terrific defender who is quick and can pass the ball. We need top defenders like him for the very top level. I tried to sign Jaap last summer. In fact, we tried very hard to get him, but PSV wouldn't sell."

"It's fair to say that we've had to change our centre-backs a lot this season, but he comes with an excellent playing record and that's important."

The Dutch international's agent, Henk von Hengle, said: "Manchester and PSV both have a game this week, so we intend to come over at the beginning of next week. I am

sure he will be playing in Manchester next season. We don't expect any more problems."

Stam's personal terms should be a formality. "His dream has come true," the PSV coach, Dick Advocaat, said. "He's a real pro, very fast and a good header of the ball."

A 6ft 1in central defender, Stam did not turn professional until the comparatively late age of 19 with FC Zwolle. His manager then was Theo de Jong, who has been a key figure in his development.

When Stam first played for Zwolle he was such a rough di-

amond that De Jong frequently had his judgement questioned. The same thing occurred at Cambuur Leeuwarden and Willem II Tilburg where coach and player followed each other but when Eindhoven paid 1m guilders (£350,000) for him three years ago the doubts fell away.

Stam made a 10-minute international debut as a substitute against Germany in 1996 but came fully to the fore in a friendly against Brazil where his command of the air and his marking of his former PSV team-mate, Ronaldo, confirmed his stature.

Stam, who beat his PSV team-mate Phillip Cocu and the previous year's winner, Ronald de Boer, to the Dutch footballer of the year trophy in 1997, had been contracted to play for Eindhoven until 2003.

His arrival at United will cast question marks over other players. Gary Pallister had been linked with Middlesbrough, while Henning Berg, who cost £5m from Blackburn last autumn, may be forced to leave.

The previous most expensive defender was Spain's Roberto Rico, who moved to Athletic Bilbao from Real Betis for £9m.

Woodward delays naming tour party

Rugby Union

By Chris Hewett

CLIVE WOODWARD, the England coach, will wait until 12 May before naming his party for the summer tour of the southern hemisphere, thus giving himself an extra fortnight to find 36 players with a full complement of serviceable limbs and sufficient reserves of energy to contemplate completing the most arduous domestic season in history with a thankless visit to Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

At the last count, no fewer than 14 senior players were either definite non-starters or serious doubts. They included eight automatic first-choices - Lawrence Dallaglio, Jason Leonard, Martin Johnson, Richard Hill, Kyran Bracken, Paul Grayson, Jeremy Guscott and David Rees - plus Dorian West, Tim Rodber, Mike Catt, Phil de Glanville, Tony Underwood and Iain Balshaw among the squad members.

Not surprisingly, there are rumblings of discontent from south of the equator - box-office operatives in Brisbane, Dunedin, Auckland and Cape Town have tickets to sell, hospitality packages to dispose of and broadcasters to appease - and Woodward is acutely aware of the potential for an English public relations disaster.

"There has been a considerable amount of speculation concerning the availability of individuals for this tour and I can understand the concerns of the SANZA countries, who want to

ensure that England sends its strongest possible squad," he said yesterday. "This is a view I have always held, but I have to emphasise that I will only pick players and management who are committed to going and are physically fit to do so."

The management reference was clearly aimed at John Mitchell, the Sale coach whose contribution to England's cause this season has been inestimable. Mitchell has expressed concern at the prospect of an under-strength squad travelling south, raising question-marks over his own participation in the process.

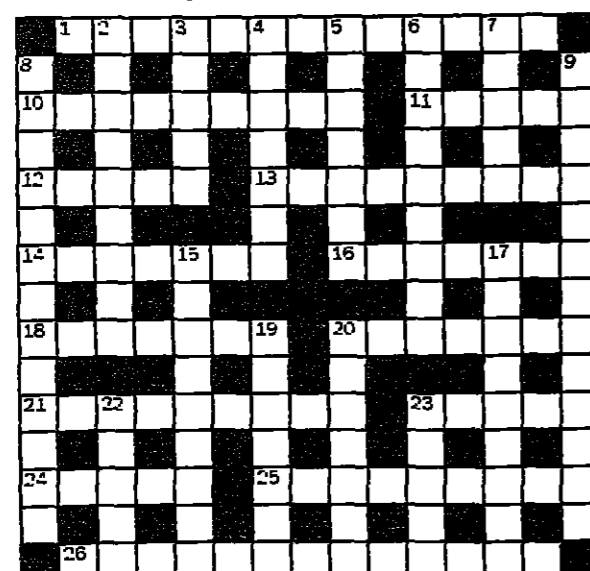
Some leading Rugby Football Union officials fear that the southern hemisphere nations will retaliate to any perceived slight by sending weak sides to England in the autumn. The Australians have been particularly vehement in their demands that the Europeans field high-calibre, high-profile sides, but they have already seen Scotland name an unfamiliar party for this summer's two-Test series.

Meanwhile, Fran Cotton and Cliff Brittle yesterday explained their decision to shelve plans to fight a court action against what they call an Allied Dunbar Premiership clubs "gagging writ". They said in a statement: "We are not prepared to undertake a costly defence without legal support from the RFU, which it has failed to give. Individuals should not be forced to protect international Board regulations at their own expense."

Alan Watkins; All Black Fitzpatrick retires, page 28

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3596, Tuesday 28 April By Aclred



Monday's Solution
COMMERCE SPOILS
O I S A R E N E
D I L A T O R Y L E A S E D
I D A W I N C
G R I T T O W A N D S T
Y W E R W U I I
M S V G N E Y N
U N D E R S T A N D
S O R T I F Y I N G
M I C R O N G R U E S O M E
A W N L E N U N
T E M P E R A M E N T
C L E S S E S
H I N D E R S T U D G E O N

- ACROSS**
- With plenty of training one gets water supply modified (4,6)
 - Litigant has straightforward argument (8)
 - Awfully cruel soreness (5)
 - Old grim smell (5)
 - A job preventing start of pain for Peter? (9)
 - Progress of man with publicity method (7)
 - Cause eruption as tactless earful is given to President (5,2)
 - Get-together with me, say, carrying the can (7)
 - Worries about female in flood (7)
 - 1° (6,3)
 - Accountant's examination of German car takes time (5)
- DOWN**
- Perhaps perfect numbers to note (5)
 - Grandee seen if a coming can be arranged (9)
 - Cashier who dispenses a huge amount of money? (7,6)
 - Possibly able to speak and add detail (9)
 - Woman sandwiched between both sides of orbit (5)
 - Making one group of soldiers to cover a railway (7)
 - Perhaps fit - start of space journey? (4,3)
 - Vary a cut to be made in wind instrument (9)
 - Do very well to put up shelter accommodating 90 (5)

- Perhaps raise them separately to be modern? (2,2,3-6)
- Impulsive action in the rain (13)
- A little thing he comes up to consume that has a very high temperature (5,4)
- Drug man after record upset diner (9)
- Former jazz player could be a saint? (7)
- Scare about energy which is to be transported (7)
- See island turn to exotic fruit (5)
- A team taking on a learner following agreed line (5)

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5 facts

about Britain's drug habit

- 1 The British are the biggest consumers of illegal drugs in Europe
- 2 The proportion of adult depressants has risen by 10% in the last five years
- 3 Every year 100,000 people are taken by roughly the same number of people each week
- 4 Heroin and cocaine are more addictive than either alcohol or ecstasy
- 5 Over 200 people in Britain die every year from drug-related misuse

tonight 10pm on 5



PEOPLE LIFE NEWS